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Tim Montgomery



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SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2004

平成22年4月9日 第三種郵便物認可（4月10日1月23日及び12月26日休刊）
発行所 星条閣新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号

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Sasebo petty officer convicted of assaulting 19-year-old Japanese woman

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Take me out to a baseball clinic

Eight-year-old Marcus Harris makes a nice play while other children watch during a baseball clinic held at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday. About 20 children from Yokota got pointers from University of Rochester (N.Y.) coach Joe Reina to help them brush up on their baseball skills. More photos on Page 4.

JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Afghanistan opium poppies: Afghan authorities have destroyed around 37,000 acres of opium poppies so far this year, the interior minister said Thursday.

According to U.N. estimates, about 180,000 acres of poppies were harvested in the country in 2002 — enough to make about 350 tons of heroin.

Previous eradication efforts have failed to seriously dent poppy cultivation, partly because of the lack of income-generating alternatives for farmers impoverished by years of war and drought.

Ingushetia death toll: Ninety-eight people were killed in this week's militant attacks in the southern Russian region of Ingushetia, regional officials said Thursday, and a top Russian military officer said three militants had been detained on suspicion of taking part in the spree of violence.

Three days after the Monday night attacks, questions still swirled about where the militants came from. Ingush President Murat Ziyazikov, a former high official of the Federal Security Service, said in an interview published in the Russian government newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta on Thursday that "it was, so to speak, an international squad" intent on destabilizing Ingushetia, which borders on war-shattered Chechnya.

Bahrain militant detainees: Bahrain released six citizens on Wednesday night who had been detained on suspicion of militant activities.

Advocate-General Sharif Shadi declined to say why the six Bahrainis had been detained in pre-dawn raids on Tuesday.

States

Scott Peterson trial: A juror dismissed from the Scott Peterson murder trial criticized the prosecution's case on Thursday, saying there had been no good explanation of how or why Peterson would have killed his pregnant wife, Laci.

Justin Falconer, replaced Wednesday by an alternate, told reporters outside the courtroom that he would have found Peterson not guilty.

He said that he did not believe the prosecution's arguments that Peterson was motivated by an affair with massage therapist Amber Frey or by financial concerns.

Jealous wife's fatal attack: Lawyers representing the children of a cheating husband who was fatally run down by his wife in a jealous rage two years ago, and representa-



Saudis offer amnesty: Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia reads a brief announcement on behalf of his half-brother, King Fahd, on state television Wednesday announcing a limited amnesty for Muslim militants who surrender in the next month. Abdullah said they will not face the death penalty and will only be prosecuted if they committed acts that hurt others.

tives of a hotel and detective agency say they've reached a tentative settlement in a lawsuit stemming from the slaying.

The twin sons of orthodontist David Harris and their half-sister had sought damages from the Nassau Bay Hilton Hotel and the Blue Moon Investigations agency of Webster.

Papers filed in the lawsuit alleged that Blue Moon, which Harris' wife hired to photograph her husband with another woman, should not have told Clara Harris that the two were at the hotel.

The hotel's management also was accused in the lawsuit of failing to provide effective security, notify police in time to prevent Harris' death or train employees to deal with domestic disputes.

Alleged mall terrorist: The attorney for a man charged with plotting to bomb an Ohio shopping mall said his client was "stripped of his identity" while in federal custody.

Attorney Maher Sherif said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that after Nuraadin Abdi's arrest last November, he was booked into an immigration jail under the name "John Doe."

Authorities accuse Abdi, a Somali refugee, of plotting with admitted al-Qaida member Iyman Faris to blow up a shopping mall.

Rudolph bombing trial: A federal judge on Thursday delayed Eric Rudolph's trial in a deadly abortion clinic bombing from August until next year, ruling his lawyers need more time to prepare.

Military

1986 Berlin disco bombing: A federal court Thursday upheld the prison sentences

of four people convicted in the deadly 1986 bombing of a West Berlin disco, rejecting appeals from both prosecutors and the defendants.

The blast at the La Belle disco, which a Berlin court ruled in 2001 was planned by Libya's secret service, killed two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman and injured 229. The defendants received sentences ranging from 12 to 14 years in prison.

Prosecutors maintained the jail time was too short and sought a retrial, while the defendants said the sentences were too harsh.

Desertion case: Supporters of a soldier who refused to return to Iraq after a two-week leave urged the Army on Wednesday to give him an honorable discharge, even though he was convicted of desertion last month.

A military hearings officer from Fort Stewart, Ga., heard testimony from character witnesses in a closed hearing to determine if Camille Mejia should receive conscientious objector status. The hearing was held at the Fort Sill Regional Correctional Facility, Okla., where Mejia is being held.

War on terrorism

GI's alleged terror ties: A U.S. soldier accused of trying to help al-Qaida has been ordered to stand trial at a court-martial but will not face the death penalty, Army officials said Wednesday in Seattle.

Spc. Ryan G. Anderson, 26, who was raised as a Lutheran but converted to Islam, was arrested in February and charged with five counts of trying to provide the terrorist network with information about U.S. troop strength and tactics as well as methods of killing American soldiers.

Stories and photos from wire reports

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Sasebo sailor gets 10 years for rape

By GREG TYLER
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — A sailor here was found guilty and sentenced Thursday to four years in prison with forced labor for raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman in January.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Markies Steven Bates, 24, a Sasebo postal clerk, stood quietly and showed little reaction when his sentence was read in Sasebo Branch, Nagasaki District Court. He received 90 days of credit based on his detention by Japanese authorities since his arrest the day of the crime.

It could not be determined Tuesday whether Bates might face additional charges or sanctions from the U.S. Navy.

According to the indictment, Bates parked in a dimly lit Sasebo lot Jan. 17 and approached the woman, speaking in English. The woman, who speaks little English,

Bates convicted of assaulting 19-year-old Japanese woman inside parked vehicle

thought he was having car trouble because he pointed to his car, indicating he wanted her to follow him. Bates shoved her inside and climbed atop her. She screamed before he covered her mouth and raped her.

At the first trial session April 8, Bates remained silent when asked if he had any comments pertaining to the indictment's details. Then, asked if his silence indicated the indictment was correct, Bates said, "Yes."

During the second trial session June 3, he refused to answer questions from defense attorney Hirofumi Inoue or Tomoyuki Nakahata, the case prosecutor. When he finally spoke, he accused Nakahata

of "trying to make me out as a violent person," "twisting everything I say" and "driving me crazy."

Bates admitted he and the woman had sex but said he thought it was consensual. "I have a lot of women. This is just a big misunderstanding," he said. "I don't have to rape women. I've had many other women, and had them a lot quicker than that."

His defense attorney explained the "misunderstanding" theory further. "He ... thought she liked him and was willing to have sex," Inoue said, adding that his client was "kind" to the victim after sex. "He said, 'thank you' after sex and gave her a tissue as she had requested."

Prosecutor Nakahata recommended a sentence of five years in prison at forced labor.

The judge said the four-year sentence is justified because of the evidence and because the crime was malicious, saying the victim suffered a great deal of physical pain and continues to suffer psychologically.

The judge also said the sentence was justified because the victim and her family asked for severe punishment. In previous court statements, the victim and her father asked that Bates spend the rest of his life in prison. "I wish I could kill him myself," the victim stated.

The prosecutor's request for

five years was reduced, the judge said, because Bates still is a young man, has no criminal record and likely will lose his Navy career. He added that the Navy offered an apology and to "explain compensation" to the victim.

"What the judge meant is that we offered to discuss monetary compensation with her, and wanted to offer a formal apology. Even so, at this point she turned down our offer to even discuss the issue with her," said Jon Nylander, a spokesman for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan.

Bates has 14 days from Thursday's sentencing to file a written appeal. Inoue declined to comment about the case or the possibility of a appeal.

Nylander said U.S. Navy personnel serving prison terms in Japan do so at Kururama, a prison south of Yokosuka.

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Kitty Hawk sailor charged with murder of 1-month-old son

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A USS Kitty Hawk sailor here was charged with the killing in March of his 1-month-old son, base officials said Thursday.

Seaman Robert J. Howard, 21, is charged with murder, maintaining, eight counts of assault and three counts of making false official statements.

Howard, an E-3 and hospital corpsman from Colfax, Wash., has been confined in the Yokosuka brig since March 9.

An Article 32 hearing, to determine whether military prosecutors have enough evidence to take the case to a court-martial, is scheduled for Aug. 4 at the Trial Service Office in Yokosuka.

Cmdr. John Wallach, spokesman for Commander, Naval Forces Japan, said the case came to authorities' attention after paramedics were called about the baby on March 9.

Wallach said the call came from somewhere on base but declined to offer more specifics.

The baby was taken to base hospital and died shortly after arrival there, Wallach said.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigators took Howard into custody that evening.

Wallach declined to discuss the nature of the baby's injuries or say what evidence pointed to Howard. The Kitty Hawk left Yokosuka for a three-month cruise on Feb. 18 but Howard was not aboard. Lt. Bruce Dewalt, Kitty Hawk spokesman, said that was because Howard had been granted leave to be home for the baby's birth. Dewalt said he did not

know when Howard had been scheduled to return to his ship.

The baby was born in February, during a record month for the number of births at the base hospital. At least seven babies born that month had a parent from the Kitty Hawk, according to the hospital, and several of the fathers had requested leave.

Howard's mother, Patti Ann Howard, reached by phone at her home in Colfax, Wash., declined to comment on the case although she did say she was aware her son had been charged. She referred questions to one of Howard's defense lawyers, Lt. Mike Luken in Honolulu. He could not be reached for comment.

Yokosuka criminal defense officials refused to say why a Honolulu military defense lawyer had been assigned to the case, other than to say they don't discuss how they assign cases.

Christopher Phan is the prosecutor on the case. Phan was one of two Yokosuka prosecutors assigned to a similar case on Guam that ended in acquittal in April.

In that case, Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony Shepherd, assigned to the Marine Training Office, was accused of murdering his 1-month-old son last September. Doctors testified in that case that the infant was killed from repeated shaking that ruptured veins in his brain and eyes.

According to news reports, the court-martial panel was not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that it was Shepherd who had shaken the infant. Defense lawyers argued it could have been Shepherd's ex-wife or a baby-sitter.

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomery@pstripes.osd.mil

A salute to their new commander



Hundreds of airmen from the Kadena's 18th Wing command salute their new wing commander, Brig. Gen. Jan-Marc Kadena (not pictured), during a change-of-command ceremony Thursday at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. Jous replaced Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Remington as Kadena's 18th Wing commander.

MARK RANKIN/Stars and Stripes

Prosecutors seeking 1-year sentences for petty officers guilty of stealing boat

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

Japanese prosecutors asked for one-year prison sentences Wednesday in Nagasaki District Court for two Sasebo Naval Base sailors who pleaded guilty to stealing a boat.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Terry Montayne Dutcher, 21, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon James Kelley, 20, are accused of stealing a boat from a seafood company in Kashimae Cho in April. The prosecutor also is seeking a 100,000

yen (about \$917) fine for Kelley, charged with additional counts of endangering traffic through negligence while driving the boat, according to Hitoshi Tokukatsu, Dutcher's defense attorney.

"I think they were drunk and took the boat thinking they will ride it for few hours and return it, not taking it too seriously," Tokukatsu said. The two sailors told the court they each presented 50,000 yen (about \$464) to the boat's owner as a token of sympathy.

They were arrested April 12 after being discovered in a fish-

ing boat, worth about \$139,000, that they allegedly stole and ran aground.

In April, a police spokesman said the key was in the ignition when the sailors took the boat and drove it about 330 yards away. An employee of the seafood company heard the boat's engine and contacted the company president, also the boat's owner, whose wife called police.

The sailors are set to be sentenced July 7 in Nagasaki District Court.

E-mail Hana Kusumoto at: kusumotoh@pstripes.osd.mil

Yokota, local residents seek to better relations

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

An association to promote cultural exchanges and friendship between Yokota Air Base residents and their Japanese neighbors was launched this week.

The Mizuho-Yokota Friendship Association was formed between Yokota and neighboring city of Mizuho at a signing ceremony Tuesday, according to base and Japanese officials. Col. Mark Schissler, 374th

Airlift Wing commander, and association president Shoichi Kurihara signed the agreement.

"The Mizuho-Yokota Friendship Association will help to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the residents of Mizuho Town and the military personnel and family members of Yokota Air Base," Col. Kenneth Wessington, 374th Vice Wing commander, stated in a written response to Stripes. "Being active in the community will help to in-

crease public awareness and local support of the various missions at Yokota Air Base."

Mizuho officials said the group is planning home stays, base tours, and training for international understanding in the future.

Wessington stated the association will provide "us an excellent opportunity to meet with the community leaders of Mizuho Town on a regular basis and discuss various issues, concerns and ideas."

E-mail Hana Kusumoto at: kusumotoh@pstripes.osd.mil

Correction

The name of Capt. Reed Eckstrom, commander of Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, was misspelled in a story in Friday's edition about noise complaints.

Essay contest

Need some extra cash? Write an essay for the Annual Naval Intelligence Essay Contest pertaining to naval intelligence, or intelligence that supports naval or maritime forces. The deadline for the contest is Aug. 1.

The first-prize winner is to receive \$1,000 and gets the winning essay published in the February issue of "Proceedings" magazine. Essays should not surpass 3,500 words.

Entries can be submitted electronically at nativitpross@navy.mil, or by mail to Naval Intelligence Essay Contest Intelligence Professionals, P.O. Box 9324, McLean, VA 22102-0324.

Embassy celebration

Celebrate the Fourth of July at the American Embassy Compound in Tokyo on Saturday. The festivities are to start at 12:30 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m., rain or shine. Gates are to open from 12:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Tickets cost 1,000 yen (about \$10) and free to children under 5. Photo ID will be required.

Attractions are to include a parade, hula dancers, jugglers, a dunk tank and various other games. The United States Army Band will perform rock, jazz and country music.

Drinks, popcorn and snow cones will be available for free; hamburgers and other food will be for sale. Purchase tickets by calling (03) 3224-5501 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A security screening at the gate will involve a bag check. Pets will not be allowed onto the grounds for this event.

The Embassy Compound is easily accessible from the Roppongi, Tameike-sanno and Akasaka subway stations.

Sea rescue

An alert USNS Guadalupe look-out spotted a burning boat Tuesday about 900 miles off the coast of Guam, leading to the rescue of 13 fishermen and a dog, according to a 7th Fleet news release.

The lookout saw the burning vessel — a 65-foot fishing boat flying a Taiwan flag and called the Hsinchinchang — at about 8:45 a.m. A series of maritime signals between the ships confirmed the fishing boat was in distress, and the Guadalupe dispatched an inflatable rescue boat.

Brought aboard the Guadalupe, an eler operated by the Military Sealift Command, were the fishing vessel's crew and the dog. Two crewmembers were treated for minor burns, according to the news release. The crew will get off the Guadalupe at its next port of call.

Cdr. Marc Boyd, a 7th Fleet spokesman, said the fire's cause remains unknown.

Parachute training

Navy officials are advising the public that they plan to conduct parachute training in Guam's San Juan, Talofofo area Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon.

According to a news release, sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 will conduct the training with assistance from Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5.

From staff reports

N. Korea vows to reunite Jenkins, family

BY ELAINE KURTENBACH

The Associated Press

BEIJING — North Korea has agreed to work on arranging a reunion between a Japanese former kidnapping victim and her family — including her fugitive American husband, Japanese officials said Thursday.

Japanese envoy Mitou Yabunaka and North Korea Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan reached the understanding on the sidelines of six-nation talks in Beijing on North Korea's nuclear program, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

The issue has hindered progress between the two governments on normalizing ties.

Hifumi Soga, kidnapped by North Korean agents in 1978 at the age of 19, was released by the exclusive communist government along with four other Japanese captives in 2002. But she had to leave behind her husband,

band, North Carolina native Charles Jenkins, and their two daughters.

Jenkins is wanted in the United States for allegedly deserting his U.S. Army unit in 1965 and defecting to North Korea.

He subsequently portrayed villainous Americans in communist propaganda films.

Yabunaka told Kim that Japan "hopes for a reunion of the family in a third country at an early date," a Japanese official told reporters.

Kim told Yabunaka that Pyongyang would cooperate as necessary, he said.

Japan also asked for a new investigation into the fates of 10 other Japanese it says were

kidnapped by North Korea, the official said.

In the past, the North Korean government has contended that those cases already were accounted for. Instead of bluntly rejecting that request, this time Kim agreed to convey Japan's message to his government, the official said.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi held a summit in Pyongyang with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on May 22, winning the release of five other relatives of former abductees. But Jenkins and his two daughters stayed for fear of extradition to the United States.

Japanese officials have struggled to arrange a meeting between Soga and her family in a third country that has no extradition treaty with Washington. The official who briefed reporters on Yabunaka's meeting refused to comment on reports that Indonesia was being considered.



Jenkins

On the ball



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Left: Marcus Harris, 8, left, keeps his eye on a ground ball while Austin DeDeo, 10, watches during a baseball clinic held at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday. University of Rochester coach Joe Reina helped about 20 kids brush up on their baseball skills. Right: While other kids wait for their chance to field a baseball hit by Reina, Jaryd Wolak, 9, makes his catch during the clinic.

S. Korean base workers rally against job cuts

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — Thousands of Korean employees rallied against possible job cuts at American bases in South Korea, chanting and singing their fears Thursday that they could be left out in the cold by proposed U.S. base realignments or troop reductions on the peninsula.

Korean Employees Union members from as far as Pusan and Taegu — at the country's southern tip — took part in the afternoon-long rally in front of the Korean War Memorial, just down the road from Yongsan Garrison.

Union leaders fear a cut up to 40 percent of the estimated 18,000 base jobs held by Korean nationals if the reduction and realignment plans are finalized.

Under agreements reached in the past two years, the U.S. Army



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Protesters rallying in Seoul near Yongsan Garrison, South Korea, on Thursday said neither the U.S. or South Korean governments have a plan for their livelihoods if widespread job cuts go into effect.

headquarters at Yongsan Garrison is to move out of Seoul by 2007; soon after, 2nd Infantry Division camps north of Seoul are to

on the peninsula.

"If we're going to lose our jobs anyway, we want to be heard first," said Lee Myung-ju, a base employee who took time off to travel from Taegu to attend the rally.

Because neither relocation nor reduction plans have been finalized, U.S. military officials said Thursday, it's too early to speculate about future job cuts.

"We do not know what the effects of future decisions will be on the workforce," said 8th Army spokesman Lt. Col. Steve Boylan. "But 8th Army is working closely with the Korean Employees Union to provide information on any loss of jobs as far in advance to minimize any disruption."

Jennifer Kleckner contributed to this report.
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Coordinated attacks kill about 100 in Iraq

Violence less than 1 week before transfer shows insurgency still strong

BY HAMZA HENDAWI
The Associated Press

BAQOUBA, Iraq — Insurgents launched coordinated attacks Thursday against police and government buildings across Sunni Muslim areas of Iraq less than a week before the handover of sovereignty. The strikes killed 89 people, including three American soldiers, and wounded 318 people, Iraqi and U.S. officials said.

Twelve American soldiers were wounded. Most of the deaths were in Mosul, where 44 people were killed and 216 injured in attacks that included a string of car bombings.

Clashes also occurred in Baqouba, Ramadi, Baghdad and other areas. The extent of the attacks was a clear sign of just how powerful the insurgency remains — and could be the start of a new push to torpedo Wednesday's transfer of sovereignty to an interim transitional government.

Iraq police, who have been entrusted to take a larger role in security after the handover, appeared outgunned and unable to hold positions in most of the cities under fire. American troops rushed to offer support, using armor, tanks and helicopters to repel the guerrillas.

Saad al-Amery, an official at the Iraqi Health Ministry, said hospitals were flooded with the wounded.

The military wing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group, the Tawhid and Jihad movement, claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement on an Islamic Web site. The statement said that members of the "martyrs' battalion" had carried out a number of "blessed operations."



Iraq police and medics rush to the scene of a car bomb explosion in Mosul, Iraq on Thursday. In Mosul, attacks including a string of car bombs killed 44 people.

President Bush, who is appealing to NATO to help quell the escalating violence, updated members of Congress about the situation in Iraq during an hour-long meeting at the White House.

The heaviest fighting raged in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where two American soldiers were killed and seven were wounded, the U.S. 1st Infantry Division said.

U.S. aircraft dropped three 500-pound bombs against an insurgent position near the Baqouba soccer stadium, said Maj. Neal E. O'Brien, a U.S. 1st Infantry Division spokesman.

Insurgents roamed the city with rocket launchers and automatic weapons, seized two police stations, and destroyed the home of the police chief of surrounding Diyala province.

In other attacks, a man dressed as an Iraqi policeman detonated a car bomb near a checkpoint manned by Iraqi and American soldiers in the southern Baghdad district of Dora, killing four Iraqi soldiers. Three U.S. soldiers tended a wounded American soldier as he lay on the road, his helmet nearby. Black smoke and flames rose from a burning pickup truck.

Attackers also set off an explosion as a military convoy passed in Baghdad, injuring one soldier. Also in Baghdad, insurgents attacked four Iraqi police stations using mortars, hand grenades and AK-47s on Wednesday and Thursday.

Baqouba, which has a mix of Sunni and Shiite Muslims, was almost deserted by late morning. U.S. troops flew low over the city, some swooping down on sus-

pected rebel hideouts in palm groves. There was no sign of police on the streets, but targets attacked by the rebels in the early morning hours — including the governor's office, police headquarters and the coalition's local offices — were heavily guarded by police.

Guerrillas also targeted security forces in the northern city of Mosul, where car bombs rocked the Iraqi Police Academy, two police stations and the al-Jumhuri hospital. Security forces lost control of the Sheikh Fathi police station following a car bombing, but U.S. forces recaptured the station after subduing insurgents firing from a nearby mosque.

One American soldier died in Mosul, U.S. officials said. Mosul's governor imposed a 9 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew, and the city television station urged people to stay home for the "general good."

U.S., Iraq agree to immunity for troops

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — American troops serving in Iraq would be immune from prosecution in local courts under an agreement in principle between the United States and the interim government in Baghdad.

"The president wants to make sure that our troops are protected," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Thursday. He said members of the military would face justice in the American legal system rather than in local courts.

"You're talking about parts of the world where due process may not be guaranteed," McClellan said.

He said the United States and Iraq already have agreed in principle on an immunity arrangement that final details were being worked out.

"The coalition will make sure that our troops have proper immunity," McClellan said. "That is a high priority. We have similar arrangements around the world in countries where U.S. forces are deployed. Diplomats are present to insure that there are proper legal protections for our personnel."

Memos show indecision over interrogation policy

BY MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dissension and confusion plagued President Bush's administration as officials considered how far to go legally and morally in interrogating prisoners captured in the war on terror.

Government lawyers argued that the president has the power to override U.S. and international laws prohibiting torture, and laid out possible defenses should anyone be charged with war crimes.

Some in the U.S. military pushed for extreme interrogation methods such as death threats or using wet towels to give a feeling of suffocation.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, argued for restraint. So did some military officers reluctant to give up long-standing traditions of strictly following Geneva Convention rules that Bush said don't apply.

Other officials fretted over whether American officials could be brought up on war crimes or torture charges in the United States or abroad. A Pentagon panel warned that support for the war on terror could erode if details of the "more aggressive interrogation techniques" reached the public.

The internal dissension was revealed in memos released by the administration earlier this week.

"It shows there are cracks

there, serious divisions on how we implement policy," said political analyst Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute, a think tank ideologically aligned with the administration.

Bush staked out a hard-line position less than four months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Siding with the U.S. Justice Department, Bush in a February 2002 order declared that suspected Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners are not protected under the Geneva Conventions.

Bush ordered that all prisoners be treated humanely and, "to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity," in line with the "principles" of the Geneva Conventions. But at the same time he reserved the right to suspend the conventions "in this or future conflicts." Bush said publicly this week that he never ordered torture.

Prior U.S. policy, from Vietnam to the Gulf War, has been to give war prisoners all Geneva Convention protections regardless of whether the conventions applied to them.

Justice Department lawyers

will spend several weeks reviewing and revising several key 2002 documents, especially a 50-page memo to the White House on Aug. 1, 2002, that appeared to justify the use of torture in the war on terror. Democratic Party lawmakers and human rights activists have characterized the memo as setting the legal tone for the mistreatment of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Critics say the idea that a president can suspend the Geneva Conventions and other international and domestic laws implies that the United States can do whatever it wants.

Attorney General John Ashcroft wrote to Bush a week before the president issued the February 2002 order, urging Bush to determine if the Geneva Conventions do not apply at all in Afghanistan.

Bush decided to declare that the Geneva Conventions apply to the conflict with the Taliban, but the militia's members are not entitled to its protections because they violated the law of war themselves.

At the time the Geneva Convention panel raised several other cautions in an April 2003 report to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

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IN THE WORLD

Report: North Korea calls for massive energy help

Pyeongyang would freeze nuclear program, not completely dismantle it as U.S. deal proposes

BY JOE McDONALD

The Associated Press

BEIJING — North Korea demanded massive energy aid Thursday at six-nation talks where Washington insisted that the North give up nuclear weapons development, Japanese news reports said.

The North wants the equivalent of 2,000 megawatts of power per year — an estimated one-fourth of its current total consumption — in exchange for freezing work on its nuclear program, the Kyodo News agency reported, citing diplomatic sources on the second day of talks in the Chinese capital. In the United States, a megawatt can supply power to about 1,000 homes.

It was unclear whether Washington would even discuss such a request since the United States says the North must commit to dismantling the program, not just freezing development.

The United States offered its first detailed proposal ending the dispute Wednesday, offering the North a step-by-step plan that would provide energy — and security guarantees in exchange for dismantling the nuclear program.

Both Japan and South Korea say they would consider giving the North fuel oil if it freezes its nuclear program as a step toward its eventual dismantling. The United States says it would not provide energy assistance under its proposal.

Also Thursday, U.S. and

North Korean envoys held a rare one-on-one meeting at a Chinese government guesthouse, a U.S. Embassy spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity. She did not immediately have any details of the discussions.

Competing U.S. and North Korean proposals for ending the dispute dominated the second day of talks, which also include Russia. "There are considerable differences, but there is common ground as well," said Cho Tae-yong, a member of the South Korean delegation. He would not give any details of the proposals.

North Korea was offering to freeze work at its main nuclear facility at Yongbyon, according to Kyodo. It did not say whether the offer included a commitment sought by Washington to dismantle all nuclear facilities.

It said the North's energy request was equivalent to 2.7 million tons of fuel oil per year, or the generating capacity of two light-water nuclear reactors pledged by the United States in an earlier 1994 agreement on freezing the North's nuclear program.

Construction of those reactors — already considerably delayed — was halted after the United States said the North admitted in October 2002 to having begun a new secret nuclear program.

North Korea is believed to consume about 8 million kilowatts per year, Kyodo said.

U.S. officials said their proposal was meant to break the impasse in talks, which went through two earlier rounds with

no major progress.

The U.S. proposal would include a three-month preparation period during which the North would freeze work on its nuclear program, submit a list of all nuclear activities and remove key weapons ingredients.

U.S. officials said it might be several days before North Korea responded to the "very complex" proposal.

Moscow would be willing to help provide energy aid and security guarantees, said Russian envoy Alexander Alexeyev, according to the Russian news agency ITAR-Tass. The report did not say what conditions Russia might attach to that offer.

North Korea's negotiating partners all say they want an end to the communist North's nuclear weapons development.

The dispute erupted in late 2002 when Washington said North Korea admitted to operating a secret nuclear program in violation of a 1994 agreement.

North Korea has agreed in principle to give up its existing weapons programs. But it denies a U.S. claim it has a uranium-based program in addition to one based on plutonium it has acknowledged.

The U.S. government says the danger posed by the North Koreans would remain if they dismantled their plutonium program while leaving intact a uranium-based bomb program.

Washington says any settlement has to include monitoring to ensure Pyongyang does not renege on its promises and must include all of the North's nuclear programs.

German tyke does some heavy lifting

BY MATT SURMAN

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A genetic mutation made a Berlin 5-year-old extra strong, but the German doctor who has been studying the boy since just after his birth says he's just a regular kid.

The boy doesn't stand out among his peers on the playground, but when he puts his mind to it, he can perform feats of strength, said Dr. Markus Schuelke.

"He's a normal boy — you don't see it, you wouldn't recognize him" out of a crowd, Schuelke said. "He can just lift heavy things."

Schuelke started studying the strength boy after he was brought to Berlin's Charite hospital shortly after birth because he was twitching.

That turned out to be nothing, but Schuelke, a pediatric neurologist, found that even though the boy was well within normal birth weight, he was particularly muscular.

Schuelke began conducting tests and found over the course of five years that the boy had a genetic mutation that boosts muscle growth.

It is the first human case where a mutant DNA segment was found to block production of a protein called myostatin that limits muscle growth, though researchers discovered in 1997 that they could create mega-mice by "turning off" the gene that directs cells to produce the protein.

Schuelke, who worked with researchers from the United States, wrote about the case in Thursday's New England Jour-

nal of Medicine, where he said the discovery could possibly help in the fight against muscle diseases, like muscular dystrophy.

The boy, whose name Schuelke has promised not to divulge, has muscles twice the size of other children his age and half their body fat.

He was born to a muscular mother, a former sprinter.

Her brother and three other relatives were also very strong — one a construction worker with a talent for hefting curbstones.

Schuelke said scientists have no way to tell how common the boy's ability is, or if a legion of super-strong tykes will be discovered now that researchers have learned what to look for.

"How should we know?" Schuelke said. "We have the first case so far."



Medics carry away an injured victim after a bomb blast Thursday aboard a bus killed at least four people and injured at least 15 others in Istanbul, Turkey. It was the second explosion in Turkey ahead of a visit this weekend by President Bush and next week's NATO summit.

Explosion on bus kills at least 4 in Istanbul

Blast is second in the city ahead of visit from Bush for NATO summit

BY JAMES C. HELICKE

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — A bomb blast aboard an Istanbul bus Thursday killed at least four people and injured 15 others, officials said. It was the second explosion in Turkey ahead of a visit this weekend by President Bush and next week's NATO summit.

The Istanbul explosion occurred as the bus was traveling in a residential area.

Earlier Thursday, a small bomb exploded in front of the Ankara hotel where Bush is expected to stay this weekend. Three people were injured, including two police officers.

Bush is among a number of NATO leaders, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac, who are to attend the summit that starts Monday.

In Washington, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the attacks will not affect Bush's plans to visit Turkey.

"It does appear that these ter-

rorist attacks are intended to disrupt preparations for the upcoming NATO summit, which is a gathering of free nations united in our global fight against terrorism," McClellan said. "In terms of (Bush's) schedule, nothing has changed."

The Istanbul blast took place in the Fatih district, some 5 miles away from the summit area. Three people were killed and 15 injured, said Korhan Taviloglu, a doctor at Caga Medical Center, where the casualties were evacuated. Hospital officials later said that one of the 15 injured died of wounds, raising the death toll to four.

Istanbul Gov. Muammer Guler said the bomb exploded in the lap of a young woman in her early 20s and added that the woman was most likely transporting the bomb when it accidentally went off.

"It was apparently a bomb that was being carried," Guler said. "It is understood that the target was neither the bus nor the passengers aboard."

Japan may permit human cloning for research

TOKYO — A government panel on Wednesday said it will recommend that Japan permit the limited cloning of human embryos for scientific research, an official said Wednesday.

Japan banned the cloning of humans in 2001 but has permitted researchers to use human embryos that are not produced by cloning methods.

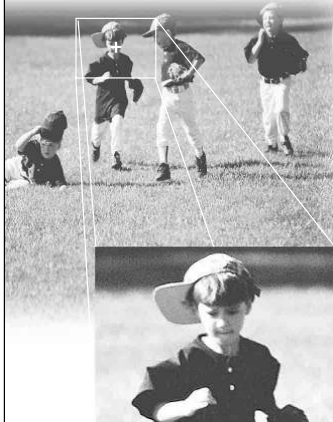
On Wednesday, the government panel said it will recommend that researchers be allowed to clone human embryos but only to conduct basic research, said Taro Hoko, an official with the Cabinet's Council for Science and Technology Policy.

The council, headed by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, will vote on whether to adopt the recommendations after receiving the panel's final report in July, Hoko said.

Many scientists back human embryo cloning in order to obtain stem cells that can be used to reproduce damaged body tissues or organs.

From The Associated Press

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'Neither rain, sleet, snow ... or sandstorms'

Military post offices getting the hang of Mideast delivery

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN
Stars and Stripes

QATAR — For troops throughout Central Command's area of operations, staying in touch with loved ones can be tough. Often there are no phones to pick up or computers with Internet access to fire off e-mails.

Many have to fall back on the centuries-old method of writing letters. More than 80 military post offices throughout the Middle East and Southeast Asia help those cards, letters and packages reach their final destination, according to Air Force Maj. Lonnie Hammack, who oversees postal operations for the area.

Hammack said military postal workers in the region deliver more than 5 million pounds of mail a month. That's more than 650,000 parcels or letters. In addition, Hammack said, more than 1 million pounds of mail head out of the theater each month.

"Within the responsibility of transporting mail, we have to make sure we have enough airlift capabilities to bring mail in from the U.S. and get it to the troops, and vice versa," Hammack said.

Postmaster Tech Sgt. Craig McCorquodale said that along with the high mail volume, another challenge post offices face is the tough weather.

"Neither rain, sleet, snow ... or sandstorms (will stop the mail)," joked Air Force Staff Sgt. Albert King, manager for the handling of official and registered mail.

Delivery by air is the preferred method, Hammack said, but sometimes the mail has to be driven to remote locations. Timely delivery is important and can be challenging, he added.

"Personally, I've received most of my letters in five or seven days," Hammack said. "Anywhere from 80 to 85 percent of the mail arrives at its destination in less than 10 days."

Hammack said that according



PHOTOS BY FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Postal clerk Airmen 1st Class Juan Melendez, left, and Staff Sgt. Albert King, official and registered mail manager, are almost lost behind a stack of boxes. Postal clerks deployed to the Middle East work all aspects at the post offices, not just the normal duties they perform at their home base.

to regulations, standard mail delivery should take between 12 to 18 days. The post offices in the region are beating that with an average delivery time of 12 to 16 days.

Earlier this year, Congress and the White House forwarded more than 300 mail complaints to the Government Accounting Office, which then conducted a survey. More than half the troops surveyed said they were

dissatisfied with the mail system, waiting four weeks or longer for mail. They added that the slow delivery times had a negative impact on morale.

Hammack said that when Operation Iraqi Freedom started, it was hard to transport the mail into combat bases once it arrived at the major mail hubs."

"One of our biggest challenges after the war kicked off was finding ways to get the mail transported to the troops at the forward bases once it arrived at the major mail hubs."

Air Force Maj. Lonnie Hammack

tried to get the mail transported to the troops at the forward bases once it arrived at the major mail hubs."

Currently, there are more than 60 flights each week into Southwest Asia carrying mail, Hammack said. Those flights fly into one of five major hubs. More than 100 regional flights then carry the mail to forward bases.

In addition to more air delivery capabilities, Hammack said improved coordination between the services, more training for postal personnel and more postal equipment and supplies helped improve the mail process. While deployed, military postal clerks handle all aspects of mail delivery. They separate and retag mail for proper routing, as well as handle all registered and official mail.

"It's different (here) because I work in the Post Office in Yokota [Air Base, Japan], so I don't do the stuff I do here," said Airmen 1st Class Juan Melendez, who said he feels a bit like Santa Claus. "I like making people feel good — seeing they're happy when they get packages."

Hammack said that the troops who run the post offices work hard to ensure customer satisfaction.

"Our postal troops have a tough job and work long hours," he said. "They're dedicated to it and they see the results of it

Hammack: Ballots won't be a problem this election

QATAR — While some absentee ballots have not been counted in the 2000 presidential election due to poor postmarkings or not arriving on time, military post offices throughout the Middle East are working to ensure every vote will be counted in November's election.

According to Air Force Maj. Lonnie Hammack, who oversees the operation of more than 80 post offices throughout the region, a Government Accounting Office report showed that poor postmarkings resulted in some ballots not being counted in the 2000 presidential election.

"In order for a ballot to be valid, it has to have a good postmark," Hammack said. "In 2000, they either had no postmark or it couldn't be read."

Hammack said he's already addressed the problem so the same thing won't happen in the upcoming election. He said every post office in the region has been checked to make sure equipment is up to par.

"If the postmarking equipment is worn out, we ordered new [equipment]," Hammack said. "They must have all the new equipment in place by Aug. 1."

In addition to new equipment at some post offices, Hammack said postal workers also have a Postal Balloting Action Plan, which outlines all the steps his post offices are taking to ensure ballots get to the States in time.

"Transportation of the mail wasn't a big issue in 2000, but some didn't make it back in time," Hammack said. "We've been checking transit times to see if we have weak links in the routes. If we do, we can see how we can speed up that segment."

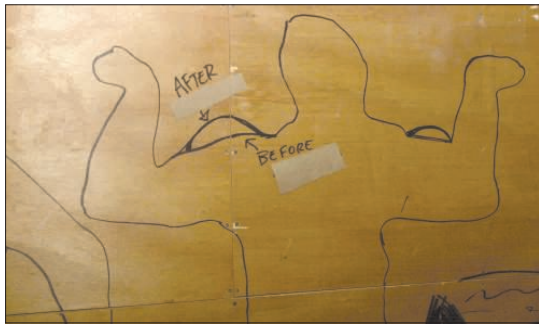
While military post offices are doing all they can to ensure absentee ballots arrive on time, Hammack said it's important for the voters to do their part. He said for those in the Middle East, most ballots must be requested by Aug. 15 and mailed out by Oct. 11.

— Fred Zimmerman

when that [services member] gets that mail."

While the Air Force is responsible for the overall operation of all post offices throughout the region, each branch of the service runs individual offices on its camps. Hammack said all post offices are inspected once a year, to ensure they're all on the same page.

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmerman@pstripes.osd.mil



Military postal workers jokingly drew what their physiques looked like before and after deployment to the Middle East. More than 5 million pounds of mail travel through more than 80 post offices in the region each month.

DOD: Realignment to be years-long process

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The process of adjusting U.S. forces around the world, including returning some troops now stationed abroad, could take through 2010, senior Pentagon leaders told members of the House on Wednesday.

"What we're going to have is a process that rolls for months and years," Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy, said during a House Armed Services hearing on the realignment of the global defense posture.

Defense leaders have completed an internal analysis and consulted with their counterparts both in countries where U.S.

troops are likely to be drawn down, such as South Korea and Germany, and countries where the Bush administration is considering new posts, such as Bulgaria and Romania, Feith said.

Pentagon officials have come to grips with "gross numbers of how many forces we expect to bring back to the United States," Feith said.

Defense officials plan to present their conclusions in a report to Congress in July, he said.

Some committee members said that the administration already has taken too much time developing its plan, and not worked enough with Congress in the process.

The report "was supposed to be completed on July 1, 2003," said

Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Mo. "Why have we waited?"

Marine Lt. Gen. James Cartwright, the Joint Staff's director of force structure, resources and assessment, replied that developing the plan "has been difficult" and "more complicated than we thought."

"We're trying to work on that," Cartwright said.

Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, said that the Bush administration has not expended effort in consulting with Congress on the posture plan.

"What we know about [the plan] is what we read in the news media," Ortiz said.

Rep. Joel Hefley, a Republican from Colorado, also said the HASC members have been left in the dark, leading to embarrassment when constituents turn to their elected leaders for information.

"People ask us questions, and we don't have any answers," Hefley said.

The Pentagon leaders worked to soothe ruffled feathers.

"Congress has an important role to play here, in many respects," Feith said.

Ray DuBois, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, promised to outline "the major muscle moves ... the major building blocks" of the review to the HASC committee during a closed, classified briefing to follow.

Along with the big picture, Pentagon leaders also have developed "specific ideas about which we might want to move where, and what kind of facilities we may want to put in different places," Feith said.

Feith declined to offer any specifics during the open hearing, but like DuBois, pledged to share more information with House members in the coming session.

And "within a few weeks," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld will go to the White House to offer President Bush "a package of fairly specific ideas," Feith said.

However, what Bush will decide, "is not that [the plan] is going to happen, because we can't decide that unilaterally," Feith said. Instead the president will decide "that he'd like to pursue a general set of ideas."

From there, State Department and defense officials will "move forward from consultations to negotiations with the specific countries involved, and see if we can work out various things," Feith said.

The plan is likely to change as a result of those negotiations, Feith said.

"Some of what we're planning ... is not doable [either] because we can't get the kinds of legal arrangements or [we can't get] the commitments that we want."

On the other hand, "We may find that some countries are so eager to work with us on certain things that the deals they're offering us induce us to change some of our plans."

Regardless, the repositioning process will be a long one, opening up the likelihood that U.S. units will remain stationed where they are overseas for several more years, DuBois said.

"Units returning to the United States may not happen in 2006 and 2007," DuBois said. "It may happen in 2008, 2009, 2010."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil



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17. Best small exchange store
18. Best selection of kids clothes
19. Best selection of shoes
20. Best local department store
21. Best used autos
23. Best website
24. Best selection of jewelry
26. Best cell phone provider
27. Best long distance provider
28. Best beauty shop
29. Best furniture store
30. Best shrine sale/flea market

Dining/Entertainment ON BASE

31. Best AFN DJ / Reporter
33. Best Sunday brunch
34. Best Mongolian BBQ

35. Best cheap date

37. Best E Club
38. Best O Club

39. Best restaurant

41. Best breakfast

Dining/Entertainment OFF BASE

43. Best fast food
44. Best American food
46. Best romantic dinner
47. Best cheap date
48. Best pizza
49. Best seafood
50. Best steak
51. Best local cuisine
52. Best live music/dancing
53. Best breakfast

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High court refuses bid to release records of Cheney's energy panel

By GINA HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration won't have to reveal secret details of Vice President Dick Cheney's energy task force before the election, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Thursday that a lower court should spend more time sorting out the White House's privacy claim.

In a 7-2 decision, justices said the lower court should consider whether a federal open government law could be used to get task force documents. Even if that court rules against the administration, appeals would tie up the case well past November.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, writing for the majority, said the federal district court judge who ordered records opened to the public had issued too broad a release of documents, without giving appropriate deference to the White House.

The president is not above the law, Kennedy wrote, but there is a "paramount necessity of protecting the executive branch from vexatious litigation that might distract it from the energetic performance of its constitutional duties."

He said "special considerations applicable to the president and the vice president suggest that the courts should be sensitive to requests by the government" in such special appeals.

The issues in the case have been overshadowed by conflict-of-interest questions about Justice Antonin Scalia, who sided with the majority.

Scalia defiantly refused to recuse himself from the case, rejecting arguments by critics who said his impartiality was brought into question because of a hunting vacation that he took with Cheney while the court was considering the vice president's appeal.

He and Justice Clarence Thomas wrote separately Thursday to say U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan "clearly exceeded" his authority in ordering the administration to release records.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and

Sentence case rebuffed

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused Thursday to overturn the death sentences of more than 100 inmates who argued their fates were improperly determined by judges, not jurors.

The 5-4 decision spares at least four states from having to decide whether to spend millions of dollars for new sentencing hearings or consent to prison sentences for the convicted killers.

It was issued on the two-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling that the constitutional right to a trial by jury means that jurors should weigh factors that determine whether a particular killing merits death or life in prison.

Justices said in the follow-up decision that the 2002 ruling does not apply retroactively to inmates who have exhausted their regular criminal appeals.

From The Associated Press

David H. Souter said in a dissent that Sullivan should be allowed to consider what records should be released. They said it was not enough for the Bush administration to request blanket protection from having to make records public.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said that while the White House hasn't had a chance to review the decision, it is pleased. "We believe the president should be able to receive candid and unvarnished advice from his staff and advisers. It's an important principle," he said.

At issue was a 1972 open government law, the Federal Privacy Committee Act, which requires government panels to conduct their business in public, unless all members are government officials.

The Sierra Club, a liberal environmental club, and Judicial Watch, a conservative legal group, sued to get the records. They argued the public has a right to information about committees like Cheney's. The organizations contended that environmentalists were shut out of the meetings.

Senate OKs defense spending bill

\$447B legislation includes provision for 20,000 new troops

By PAULINE JELINEK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed a massive defense spending bill that, at \$447 billion, still only covers a fraction of war costs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The vote Wednesday night capped weeks of wrangling over missile defense, the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal and numerous other proposed amendments.

The bill, which now must be reconciled with a similar House bill passed a month ago, includes a military pay raise, an increase in the size of the Army and billions of dollars for weapons systems.

Lawmakers voted 97-0 shortly before midnight on the bill, which authorizes Pentagon and Energy Department defense programs for the budget year that begins in October.

The measure includes \$25 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the Bush administration plans to submit a supplemental budget at the start of the next calendar year, after November's election, that is expected to seek at least an additional \$25 billion for the two ongoing military campaigns.

Defying the White House and Pentagon, senators also included a provision to add 20,000 troops to an Army stretched thin by war in Iraq, the global war on terror and other commitments around the world.

Lawmakers have for months heard complaints from families of service men and women who have served repeated deployments or been forced to remain on duty after their obligation has ended under stop-loss.

The Senate bill would increase the Army by about 4 percent, to 502,400. The House version would add 30,000 Army soldiers and 9,000 Marines over three years.

The House also would delay for two years the next round of military base clo-

sures, set to take place next year. But, generally, the Senate authorization bill mirrors the House version, for instance also including an across-the-board 3.5 percent pay raise for military personnel and higher danger pay.

It authorizes \$10.2 billion for a missile defense system and billions more for such programs as the F/A-22 Raptor aircraft, Joint Strike Fighter and DD(X) destroyer program.

Senators passed an amendment earlier Wednesday requiring President Bush to report to the Republican-controlled Con-

gress on his efforts to stabilize Iraq. But they rejected one that would have forced him to give an estimate of how many American troops will remain in the violence-plagued country a year from now.

Drawing out the deliberations Wednesday was a heated debate over the growing Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal, as Democrats pushed for an amendment requiring the administration to hand over memos on prisoner treatment and interrogations.

In the end, Republicans defeated a measure that would have declared all U.S. officials bound by anti-torture laws and required Pentagon reports on interrogation techniques, the number of detainees ended POW status, Red Cross findings on U.S. military prisons and a schedule for trying terror suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

While Wednesday's action authorized the defense programs, senators now must approve an appropriations bill to actually give the administration the money.

The House on Tuesday approved a \$417 billion defense appropriations bill covering only the Defense Department programs.

The Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday approved a similar \$416 billion defense spending measure.

Pilot's charges dropped

NEW ORLEANS — The Air Force will dismiss all criminal charges against a U.S. fighter pilot who accidentally dropped a 500-pound, laser-guided bomb that killed four Canadians in Afghanistan in 2002.

Maj. Harry Schmidt, 37, has accepted an offer to face administrative punishment in exchange for dismissal of four counts of dereliction of duty, the Air Force said.

Schmidt originally was charged with manslaughter and aggravated assault. Military officials recommended the charges be dismissed and that he face possible administrative punishment instead. Schmidt turned down the offer, saying he wanted to clear his name in a court-martial inquiry. He was ordered to be tried on the lesser charge of dereliction of duty. Now, that charge will be dismissed, too.

From The Associated Press

Bush asked about leak of undercover CIA operative last July

By DEB RIECHMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush was interviewed by government prosecutors Thursday in connection with the federal investigation of who leaked the name of an undercover CIA operative to the news media.

The president was questioned for 70 minutes in the Oval Office by U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald, who is heading the Justice Department investigation, and members of his team.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush has hired a private attorney, Jim Sharp, a Washington trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor, and he was present for the questioning.

"The leaking of classified information is a very serious matter," McClellan said, adding that the president repeatedly has said that he wants his administration to cooperate with the investigation. "He was pleased to do his part

No one wants to get to the bottom of this matter more than the president of the United States."



Bush

McClellan noted that Bush has urged anyone with information about the case to come forward.

Vice President Dick Cheney and other top administration officials, including White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, also have been questioned in the investigation. Investigators want to know who leaked the name of Valerie Plame, an undercover Central Intelligence Agency operative, to syndicated columnist Robert Novak last July.

A federal grand jury in recent months has questioned numerous White House and administration officials.

Disclosure of an undercover officer's identi-

ty can be a federal crime.

Asked if Bush had answered every question, McClellan said, "The president was glad to do his part to cooperate with the investigation. The president was pleased to share whatever information he had with the officials in charge and answer their questions."

McClellan, who said he was not in the meeting, was asked if Bush had any information about who leaked Plame's name. "That's just getting into questions that are best directed to the officials in charge of the investigation. I would not read anything into that one way or the other. This is an ongoing investigation."

Former Ambassador Joseph Wilson has said he believes his wife's identity was disclosed to attack his credibility because it criticized Bush administration claims that Iraq under deposed President Saddam Hussein had tried to obtain uranium from Niger.

Wilson went to Niger for the CIA to investigate the information about Iraq and he found the allegation to be highly unlikely.

Nine hurt in Detroit fireworks shooting

Police seek gunman who fired into crowd at summertime celebration

By MIKE RAMSEY
The Associated Press

DETROIT — A gunman opened fire into a crowd that had gathered downtown for the city's annual fireworks display, injuring nine people and forcing hundreds of revelers to scatter.

Police Chief Elia Bully-Cummings said early Thursday the shooting apparently followed an argument and that innocent people were caught in the crossfire.

Police questioned several people but had made no arrests in the Wednesday night shooting at the Hart Plaza area, city spokesman James Tate said.

He would not say whether police knew the shooter's identity or target.

"There were a lot of different accounts of what happened," Tate said.

Bully-Cummings said investigators recovered a handgun and had a good description of the suspect.

Nine people, ranging in age from 18 to late 40s, were shot, police said.

One victim, a 22-year-old man, was in critical condition with a bullet wound to his heart, police said.

Eight people were treated at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

Of them, two were listed in critical condition, three as stable and one as temporarily stable, and two were treated and released, said hospital spokeswoman Karen Wood.

At the site of the shooting, yellow police tape was used to cordon off the scene.

Inside the area, a bike, backpacks, coolers and blankets were scattered about.

Hundreds of thousands of people packed into downtown and along the Detroit River that runs between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, to watch the display, a summertime tradition that celebrates the bonds between the cities.

One witness won't return.

Andrea Bobo, 23, of Detroit, said she was about 30 feet from where the shooting took place and had seen several fights in the area before the fireworks display.

"I don't think I will ever come back again," Bobo said.

During the 1991 fireworks display, a white woman was assaulted and five black women pleaded no contest to charges, further straining race relations in the city.

Two facing charges in AOL spam scam

By ERIN MCCLAM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Millions of AOL customers were hit with junk e-mail after an America Online insider stole the Internet giant's subscriber list and sold it to spammers, prosecutors say.

The scheme resulted in AOL customers being sent unsolicited advertisements for herbal penis enhancement pills and Internet gambling come-ons, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Prosecutors said Jason Smathers, 24, stole 92 million AOL screen names while working at AOL offices in Dulles, Va., and sold the list to a Las Vegas man, Sean Dunaway. Dunaway used it to send gambling ads and then sold it to spammers, a criminal complaint said.

Smathers' list also included customer ZIP codes and credit card types, prosecutors said. AOL said it did not appear that Smathers had gained access to credit card numbers, which the company keeps in a separate facility.

Smathers and Dunaway, 21, were arrested and charged with conspiracy.

"We deeply regret what has taken place and are thoroughly reviewing and strengthening our internal procedures as a result of this investigation and arrest," AOL spokesman Nicholas Graham said.

AOL, owned by Time Warner Inc., has about 32 million customers worldwide, Graham said. Many customers register several different screen names for family members or themselves.

David Kelley, the U.S. attorney for Manhattan, said the arrests were two of the first prosecutions under federal anti-spamming legislation that took effect early this year.

Dunaway declined to comment after he left the federal courthouse.

Secret Service agents confiscated his computer equipment when they arrested him Wednesday, said his lawyer, Kevin Kelly.

Smathers was to appear in court in Virginia. No lawyer for him could be located. Each man could face up to five years in prison and at least \$250,000 in fines if convicted.

Smathers was not authorized to have access to the screen name list, which is kept in Dulles, but used another employee's access code last year to steal it, prosecutors said. AOL fired Smathers on Wednesday.

Prosecutors did not immediately say how much they allege Dunaway paid Smathers for the list, but they said Dunaway later paid him \$100,000 for an updated version of it.

Dunaway then offered the list to spammers, charging them \$2,000 for lists containing names beginning with a single letter of the alphabet or \$52,000 for the entire list, the complaint said.

At least one spammer used the list to send advertising for herbal penis enhancement pills, prosecutors said.

Fatal storm tears through Wisconsin



Brian Danne tapes plastic over his broken car window after strong storms caused considerable damage on Wednesday night in Waupun, Wis. Crews worked to restore power and clear debris after a tornado spawned severe storms, which tore through Wisconsin. One 53-year-old man was killed by the storm in Markesan.

Teachers keep Va. student with weapons calm

The Associated Press

MANASSAS, Va. — A 12-year-old boy brought 100 rounds of ammunition, a knife and flammable fluid to his Prince William County school last week, and he burst into a school office and threatened about a dozen employees, students and parents, police said Wednesday.

Police, school officials and witnesses described what happened at Bull Run Middle School after the seventh-grader was discovered loading a rifle in a bathroom and before police stormed the building. The Washington Post said in a story in Wednesday's editions.

Two teachers who unexpectedly came to the office but then left and the calm presence of mind of another teacher kept the incident from spiraling out of control, they said.

The teacher told the boy, "You

don't want to do this. Think about this and what will occur. Calm down," said Edward L. Kelly, Prince William County school superintendent. "He just bought time" before a police officer arrested the boy.

The boy had been spotted in a bathroom about 8:30 a.m. by Assistant Principal Jamie Addington, who called police and implemented the school's emergency plan.

Shortly after Addington left the bathroom, the 12-year-old rushed into the main office before it could be locked. He pointed the gun, ordered everyone to get down and threatened to shoot people, police said.

Just then, two teachers approached the office, saw the boy with the gun and left, witnesses said. The boy went after them, according to an eighth-grade student who was in the office.

The people inside retreated to a

back room and locked the door, the eighth-grader said. The boy with the gun returned, found no one in the office and went back to the main lobby.

That's when another teacher began talking to him. Officials would not identify the teacher.

Police have said the seventh-grader was trying to scare or even kill people at the 1,100-student school and then hold hostages to extort money.

Authorities believe several other students plotted with the seventh-grader, who was often teased. A 13-year-old boy from Haymarket has been charged with conspiracy to possess firearms on school property.

The 12-year-old has been charged with numerous crimes, including conspiracy to commit murder and conspiracy to commit abduction for money. If convicted on all the charges, he could be imprisoned until he turns 21, Ebert said.



Sean Dunaway, 21, walks away from the Federal Courthouse in Las Vegas. Dunaway was charged with conspiracy after allegedly purchasing a stolen list of 92 million America Online customer screen names from an AOL employee, and then using it to promote an Internet gambling operation and selling it to spammers.

YOUR MONEY

Interest in older workers' need to work

Hiring trends favorable for seniors staying in work force

BY BRAD FOSS

The Associated Press

After her husband's death, Doris Pease needed time to grieve and piece together her life as a widow.

She sold her home in Nevada, paid off her husband's medical bills and bought a mobile home in Pocatello, Idaho, to be closer to her brother. Pease, now 68, dug into her hobbies—reading, gardening and embroidery—but after about six years the funds from the home sale, and her peace of mind, began to run out.

"I was getting so depressed sitting around the house that I needed to get back to work," she said.

For many older Americans, retirement is not a viable option; many are postponing retirement, while others are going back into the work force, driven by the personal or financial reasons.

The trend is evident in the number of older workers. The number of people 55 and above in the work force rose to 22.7 million in May, up from 22 million in 2003 and 20.7 million the year before that, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The increase in older workers coincides with a shift in employers' attitudes—while there has long been an aversion in corporate America to hiring seniors, they were deemed expensive or difficult to train, that view is changing somewhat at a time when the government is forecast-

ing a significant labor shortage by the end of the decade.

The need to work can be explained in part by money problems—AARP estimates that 1 in 10 Americans age 65 and over lives below the poverty level, explaining at least part of the phenomenon.

Though most seniors aren't technically poor, many nonetheless struggle to make ends meet because of limited savings, expensive medications to buy or the loss of a spouse.

Others find employment critical to their mental well-being—contrary to how they expected to feel in their golden years.

"The money helps, don't get me wrong, but that wasn't the ultimate goal," said Ray Clark, 68, of Springfield, Mass. "I took a part-time job at the Basketball Hall of Fame because I had retirement being foretold."

Clark, who spent much of his life as a machine operator for a company that makes corrugated boxes, said he would stick with his current gig—a minimum wage job—"until I can no longer do it."

While older workers are well-known for such commitment, there is also the perception among would-be employers that they require considerable training, particularly in the area of technology, according to labor experts.

That's why organizations that advocate for the elderly sponsor

job training and placement services through a federally funded program called Senior Community Service Employment Project.

It was through this program, authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and funded by the Labor Department, that Pease landed a job at Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare, gaining experience in health care and general computing skills.

Today she is employed by the American Red Cross, where she works scheduling blood donations and organizing events in the field.

Basically, I think they wanted someone reliable that they could depend on," Pease said.

That, it turns out, is what many U.S. employers are looking for these days and, to help find it, they're turning more frequently to the growing pool of older workers, according to human resources executives and job-training specialists.

Home Depot Inc., CVS Corp., Anheuser-Busch Cos. and dozens of other major corporations have partnered with or contacted AARP to help recently started a program to identify job-seeking seniors and match them up with the right employers.

This effort came about because executives identified a dearth of younger workers, particularly in the areas of retail, health care and transportation, according to Jim Seith, national director of the AARP Foundation, a sponsor of



Billy Joe Brady sorts some of the hearing impaired phones and attachments in the storage room of the Junction Center for Independent Living Inc. in Norton, Va.

the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

Moreover, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates there could be a 3 million-person shortfall in the labor force by 2010—when the oldest boomers will turn 65.

At 65, Brady could conceivably begin retiring.

But "R" Us Inc., executives are eager to bring more older workers for two key reasons, according to Jim Gorenc, director of staffing for the company in the United States.

The first is the aging of the U.S. population. Having older workers "opens up a channel for customers to be serviced by someone like them," said Gorenc, noting that 10 percent of "R" Us employees are currently 50 or older.

There is another factor, Gorenc said, is that "there is a work ethic from a mature worker that is very strong," and not as easy to find among younger generations.

Charlotte Lee, the director of Senior AIDES in Springfield, Mass., a municipal job placement program for older workers, said such private sector interest in the senior labor force couldn't have come at a better time.

She said those seniors who most need to work face stiffer

competition than ever before as retirees—stung by recent stock market losses—return to the workforce and many baby boomers make plans to work well into their 60s and 70s.

Billy Joe Brady, 60, of Norton, Va., never intended to leave the labor force.

But he lost his job in 1998 when the local coal company moved out of town and the thought of hunting for a job for the first time in 25 years frightened him.

Instead, Brady collected \$1,300-a-month disability checks for a couple of years, while his wife, Linda, went to work for a nearby Holiday Inn. "We were doing pretty good," he said, referring to their financial needs.

But gradually Brady's self-esteem began to deteriorate. "I kind of felt like I was sliding into nothingness and that didn't sit well with me," said Brady, who works at a non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to live independently.

"It feels good to get up every morning to say, 'Well, I have to go to work,'" Brady said. "I have a purpose every day. Not every day when I get up do I feel the best in the world, but I feel that if I get up and get started, that kind of goes away."

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week	High	Low	Net Chg	% YTD 52-wk
Dow Jones Industrial	10,875.61	10,811.29	+84.30	+0.78
Dow Jones Technology	3,090.07	2,532.87	+40.20	+1.58
Dow Jones Utilities	283.81	226.46	+5.35	+2.36
NASDAQ Composite	6,798.12	5,435.77	+162.35	+2.42
S&P 500	1,278.81	1,138.73	+139.08	+12.25
Russell 2000	1,153.23	1,028.25	+124.98	+12.25
DAX (Germany)	4,179.98	3,549.04	+630.94	+17.79
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	686.42	437.20	+249.22	+56.99
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	11,371.14	8,227.46	+3,143.68	+38.29

NYSE				
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Volume	Open	High	Low
Alcoa	47,949	3.30	+12	
Boeing	1,479	4.70	+1	
General Electric	32,516	31.42	+37	
Wal-Mart	5,577	51.36	+1	
Microsoft	36,710	34.46	+40	
Johnson & Johnson	16,622	18.36	+1	
Pfizer	16,870	14.26	+30	
Merck	17,960	24.32	+30	
ExxonMobil	12,682	43.46	+39	
United Therapeutics	2,648	51.00	+1	

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	DN	FE	LC	YTD
Alliant Technology	-15	63.58	+39	+10.8
Airbus Helicopters	49	54.67	+108	+2.2
Boeing	26	54.07	+108	+2.2
Boeing	26	54.07	+108	+2.2
Boeing	26	54.07	+108	+2.2
Boeing	26	54.07	+108	+2.2
Boeing	26	54.07	+108	+2.2
Boeing	26	54.07	+108	+2.2
Boeing	26	54.07	+108	+2.2
Boeing	26	54.07	+108	+2.2

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	NAV	NAV	NAV	YTD
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	
Fidelity Asset Growth	36.43	+21	+2.8	

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (June 25)	106.00
S. Korean won (June 24)	1,130.00
Euro	\$1.2425
British pound	\$1.87
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.8712
Canadian dollar	0.6905
Denmark (Krone)	6.1486
East German mark	1.3600
Euro	\$1.2425
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2425
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2425
Israel (Shekel)	4.6984
Japan (Yen)	106.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2647
New Zealand	0.6113
Philippines (Peso)	51.7901
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2425
S. Korea (won)	1,130.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2532
Taiwan (Dollar)	1.2425
Turkey (Lira)	1,492.50

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-military currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military bank facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign bank rates to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars to one pound, and the euro, which is dollars to euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc	
Gold	\$395.00
Silver	\$5.873
Interest Rates	
Prime rate	4.00
Discount rate	2.00
3-month bill	1.28
3-month bill	1.28
3-month bill	1.28
3-month bill	1.28
3-month bill	1.28
3-month bill	1.28
3-month bill	1.28
3-month bill	1.28
3-month bill	1.28

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Save money with coupons

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK—Clipping coupons can save you big on grocery bills. But that's only if you remember to redeem the coupons: most people don't.

More than 330 billion manufacturer's coupons were distributed during 2000, reports the Promotion Marketing Association, but only 4.5 billion were redeemed. Those consumers who cashed in on their coupons saved an estimated \$3.6 billion.

■ File the coupons in one location, such as a multipocket organizer.

■ Always bring the organizer with you when you shop—you never know when you'll come across a real deal.

■ Make a list of your coupons, citing the item, brand name, amount saved and expiration date. Keep it on your fridge.

For more savings, check: www.couponcart.com, www.cooksavings.com, www.valupage.com.

SATURDAY EVENING / JUNE 26, 2004

MOVIES

SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P Headline News (CC)	ESPN News (CC)	My Wife and Kids 2:1: "Sell His Car" They sell a restored Impala.	Half & Half: Sister capers to annoy friends. (CC)	The West Wing "Tul Disposure" The Vice President prepares to write about the Bartlett White House. (CC)	Law & Order: "Hands Free" Detectives search for a killer when body parts are found in the trash. (CC)	Headline News (CC)	Saturday Night Live (CC)				
7	AFN-AT Endurance (E) (CC)	Good Eats (CC)	Entertainment Tonight (CC)	WWWE Raw (CC)	My Wife and Kids Half & Half (CC)	The West Wing "Tul Disposure" (CC)	Law & Order: "Hands Free" (CC)					
8	NEWS CNN Live (CC)	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Today (CC)							
9	SPORTS ***44-000 MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	***SportsCenter (CC)	***Today at Wimbledon Marques match from Wimbledon.	***Wire to Wire (CC)	***SportsCenter (CC)	***Max (CC)	***NHL Cool Shots (CC)					
10	SPEC Airline "Times Change" Rating plaza's latest. (CC)	Airline "Winners Lessons" (CC)	Trading Spaces "Philadelphia 22nd Street" Philadelphia neighbors redress each other's homes. (CC)	Everwood "Forget Me Not" Amy forgets her father's birthday dinner; Madison tells to Ephraim. (CC)	Strong Medicine "Contradictions" Problems arise after Lu prescribes a controversial anti-ops for a patient. (CC)	*** "Battle Hymn" (1957, Drama) Rock Hudson, Martha Hyer, Dan Duryea. A minister establishes an orphanage in war-torn Korea. (CC)						
11	TMC *** "Moscow on the Hudson" (1984, Comedy) Robin Williams, Maria Conchita Alonso, Cleavon Derricks. A Russian circus musician defies and learns American ways. R (CC)	Antiques Roadshow "Roy Rogers hold- er, beat 1840s American Indian bandolier bag. (CC)	Peace by Peace: Women on the Front- lines. (CC)	Great Old Amusement Parks (R) (CC)	Things We've Made (CC)	Austin City Limits: Combination of jazz and pedal steel guitar solo. (CC)	*** "Bar- bershop" (2003) Ice Cube. PG-13 (CC)					
12	PBS Nova "Secrets of the Mind" What a lead- ing brain researcher has learned about emotion and consciousness. (CC)	Antiques Roadshow "Roy Rogers hold- er, beat 1840s American Indian bandolier bag. (CC)	Peace by Peace: Women on the Front- lines. (CC)	Great Old Amusement Parks (R) (CC)	Things We've Made (CC)	Austin City Limits: Combination of jazz and pedal steel guitar solo. (CC)	*** "Bar- bershop" (2003) Ice Cube. PG-13 (CC)					
13	SHOW (15) *** "Housekeeper" (1992, Comedy) Steve Martin, Goldie Hawn, Dana Del- any. A screwy waitress loses herself into an architect's life. PG (CC)	Antiques Roadshow "Roy Rogers hold- er, beat 1840s American Indian bandolier bag. (CC)	Peace by Peace: Women on the Front- lines. (CC)	Great Old Amusement Parks (R) (CC)	Things We've Made (CC)	Austin City Limits: Combination of jazz and pedal steel guitar solo. (CC)	*** "Bar- bershop" (2003) Ice Cube. PG-13 (CC)					
14	AE The First 48 "Overkill: Let's for De- tectives search for a witness. (CC)	Antiques Roadshow "Roy Rogers hold- er, beat 1840s American Indian bandolier bag. (CC)	Peace by Peace: Women on the Front- lines. (CC)	Great Old Amusement Parks (R) (CC)	Things We've Made (CC)	Austin City Limits: Combination of jazz and pedal steel guitar solo. (CC)	*** "Bar- bershop" (2003) Ice Cube. PG-13 (CC)					
15	DISC To Be Announced	Antiques Roadshow "Roy Rogers hold- er, beat 1840s American Indian bandolier bag. (CC)	Peace by Peace: Women on the Front- lines. (CC)	Great Old Amusement Parks (R) (CC)	Things We've Made (CC)	Austin City Limits: Combination of jazz and pedal steel guitar solo. (CC)	*** "Bar- bershop" (2003) Ice Cube. PG-13 (CC)					
16	30 (10) Magandang Gabi, Bayan	(6:55) Home Alone (40) Victim	Antiques Roadshow "Roy Rogers hold- er, beat 1840s American Indian bandolier bag. (CC)	Peace by Peace: Women on the Front- lines. (CC)	Great Old Amusement Parks (R) (CC)	Things We've Made (CC)	Austin City Limits: Combination of jazz and pedal steel guitar solo. (CC)	*** "Bar- bershop" (2003) Ice Cube. PG-13 (CC)				
17	CNN Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News	World Sport	CNN World News	Elizasia	CNN World News	World Sport	CNN World News	World Sport	CNN World News	Talk Asia	
18	GOLF European PGA Golf Open de France - Second Round. From Paris.	European Tour Weekly	European PGA Golf Open de France - Third Round. From Paris. (Live)	European Tour Weekly	European PGA Golf Open de France - Third Round. From Paris. (Live)	European Tour Weekly	European PGA Golf Open de France - Third Round. From Paris. (Live)	European Tour Weekly	European PGA Golf Open de France - Third Round. From Paris. (Live)	European Tour Weekly	European PGA Golf Open de France - Third Round. From Paris. (Live)	
19	TLC Trading Spaces: Family "Louisville: Lambert Light Factory" Living rooms. (CC)	While You Were Out (CC)	Trading Spaces: Family "Louisville: Lambert Light Factory" Living rooms. (CC)	While You Were Out (CC)	Trading Spaces: Family "Louisville: Lambert Light Factory" Living rooms. (CC)	While You Were Out (CC)	Trading Spaces: Family "Louisville: Lambert Light Factory" Living rooms. (CC)	While You Were Out (CC)	Trading Spaces: Family "Louisville: Lambert Light Factory" Living rooms. (CC)	While You Were Out (CC)	Trading Spaces: Family "Louisville: Lambert Light Factory" Living rooms. (CC)	
20	TOON What's New Scooby- by-Doo?	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	Tom and Jerry: The Magic Ring A sorcerer's ring gets stuck on Jerry's head.	Bugs & Daffy Shorts	Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!	Cartoon Cartoon Cartoon shorts.	Detective Squad					
21	ANPL Most Extreme "Dads' Some animal is lost. (CC)	Most Extreme: Builders High-ri- des of the animal kingdom built by Mother Nature's top 10 architects. (CC)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	Jane Goodall Special: State of the Great Ape Jane Goodall peers into the fu- ture of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos. (N)	
22	COM Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	Last Comic Standing (CC)	
23	NGC-A Be the Creature "Chimpanzee" Travel- ing to Uganda to observe chimpanzees.	Tarantula!	Be the Creature "Chimpanzee" Travel- ing to Uganda to observe chimpanzees.	Tarantula!	Be the Creature "Chimpanzee" Travel- ing to Uganda to observe chimpanzees.	Tarantula!	Be the Creature "Chimpanzee" Travel- ing to Uganda to observe chimpanzees.	Tarantula!	Be the Creature "Chimpanzee" Travel- ing to Uganda to observe chimpanzees.	Tarantula!	Be the Creature "Chimpanzee" Travel- ing to Uganda to observe chimpanzees.	
24	SPIKE The Joe Schmo Show	***WWE Velocity (N) (CC)	The Joe Schmo Show	***WWE Velocity (N) (CC)	The Joe Schmo Show	***WWE Velocity (N) (CC)	The Joe Schmo Show	***WWE Velocity (N) (CC)	The Joe Schmo Show	***WWE Velocity (N) (CC)	The Joe Schmo Show	
25	FOX Stargate SG-1 "Alliance" An invisible assassin goes to a killing spree. (CC)	The Invisible Man	Stargate SG-1 "Alliance" An invisible assassin goes to a killing spree. (CC)	The Invisible Man	Stargate SG-1 "Alliance" An invisible assassin goes to a killing spree. (CC)	The Invisible Man	Stargate SG-1 "Alliance" An invisible assassin goes to a killing spree. (CC)	The Invisible Man	Stargate SG-1 "Alliance" An invisible assassin goes to a killing spree. (CC)	The Invisible Man	Stargate SG-1 "Alliance" An invisible assassin goes to a killing spree. (CC)	
26	BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	BET.com Count- down	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	BET.com Count- down	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	BET.com Count- down	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	BET.com Count- down	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	BET.com Count- down	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	
27	COURT Detective 1, Detective 1	Cops A reported power, domestic violence; suspected theft.	Detective 1, Detective 1	Cops A reported power, domestic violence; suspected theft.	Detective 1, Detective 1	Cops A reported power, domestic violence; suspected theft.	Detective 1, Detective 1	Cops A reported power, domestic violence; suspected theft.	Detective 1, Detective 1	Cops A reported power, domestic violence; suspected theft.	Detective 1, Detective 1	
28	STR-UD Baywatch (CC)	JAG (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	JAG (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	JAG (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	JAG (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	JAG (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	
29	LIFE (8:00) "Lies of the Heart: The Story of Laurie Riefke" (1994, Drama) Jamie Garcia, Greg Harrison. (CC)	*** "Bed of Lies" (1992, Drama) Susan Dey, Chris O'Keefe, G.W. Bailey. A mur- der suspect tries to keep custody of her children. (CC)	(8:00) "Lies of the Heart: The Story of Laurie Riefke" (1994, Drama) Jamie Garcia, Greg Harrison. (CC)	*** "Bed of Lies" (1992, Drama) Susan Dey, Chris O'Keefe, G.W. Bailey. A mur- der suspect tries to keep custody of her children. (CC)	(8:00) "Lies of the Heart: The Story of Laurie Riefke" (1994, Drama) Jamie Garcia, Greg Harrison. (CC)	*** "Bed of Lies" (1992, Drama) Susan Dey, Chris O'Keefe, G.W. Bailey. A mur- der suspect tries to keep custody of her children. (CC)	(8:00) "Lies of the Heart: The Story of Laurie Riefke" (1994, Drama) Jamie Garcia, Greg Harrison. (CC)	*** "Bed of Lies" (1992, Drama) Susan Dey, Chris O'Keefe, G.W. Bailey. A mur- der suspect tries to keep custody of her children. (CC)	(8:00) "Lies of the Heart: The Story of Laurie Riefke" (1994, Drama) Jamie Garcia, Greg Harrison. (CC)	*** "Bed of Lies" (1992, Drama) Susan Dey, Chris O'Keefe, G.W. Bailey. A mur- der suspect tries to keep custody of her children. (CC)	(8:00) "Lies of the Heart: The Story of Laurie Riefke" (1994, Drama) Jamie Garcia, Greg Harrison. (CC)	
30	ABC-AT *** "Lucky 7" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Patrick Dempsey, Gail O'Grady. A lawyer believes that her true love has arrived too late. (CC)	Love Rules! (2004, Romance-Comedy) Joseph Lawrence, Maggie Lawson, Mark Herrer. Friends and family interfere in a couple's wedding plans. (CC)	*** "Lucky 7" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Patrick Dempsey, Gail O'Grady. A lawyer believes that her true love has arrived too late. (CC)	Love Rules! (2004, Romance-Comedy) Joseph Lawrence, Maggie Lawson, Mark Herrer. Friends and family interfere in a couple's wedding plans. (CC)	*** "Lucky 7" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Patrick Dempsey, Gail O'Grady. A lawyer believes that her true love has arrived too late. (CC)	Love Rules! (2004, Romance-Comedy) Joseph Lawrence, Maggie Lawson, Mark Herrer. Friends and family interfere in a couple's wedding plans. (CC)	*** "Lucky 7" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Patrick Dempsey, Gail O'Grady. A lawyer believes that her true love has arrived too late. (CC)	Love Rules! (2004, Romance-Comedy) Joseph Lawrence, Maggie Lawson, Mark Herrer. Friends and family interfere in a couple's wedding plans. (CC)	*** "Lucky 7" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Patrick Dempsey, Gail O'Grady. A lawyer believes that her true love has arrived too late. (CC)	Love Rules! (2004, Romance-Comedy) Joseph Lawrence, Maggie Lawson, Mark Herrer. Friends and family interfere in a couple's wedding plans. (CC)	*** "Lucky 7" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Patrick Dempsey, Gail O'Grady. A lawyer believes that her true love has arrived too late. (CC)	
31	HIST Great Escapes of World War II (CC)	History vs. Hollywood "The Great Es- cape" Celebrating the film "The Great Es- cape" (CC)	Great Escapes of World War II (CC)	History vs. Hollywood "The Great Es- cape" Celebrating the film "The Great Es- cape" (CC)	Great Escapes of World War II (CC)	History vs. Hollywood "The Great Es- cape" Celebrating the film "The Great Es- cape" (CC)	Great Escapes of World War II (CC)	History vs. Hollywood "The Great Es- cape" Celebrating the film "The Great Es- cape" (CC)	Great Escapes of World War II (CC)	History vs. Hollywood "The Great Es- cape" Celebrating the film "The Great Es- cape" (CC)	Great Escapes of World War II (CC)	
32	STR-IV (8:15) *** "The Kid Stays in the Pic- ture" (2002) Producer Robert Evans re- visits his hit movie. (CC)	*** "City of Ghosts" (2002, Crime Drama) Matt Dillon, James Caan, Natasha McElhone. A businessman searches for his kidnapped partner in Cambodia. (CC)	(8:15) *** "The Kid Stays in the Pic- ture" (2002) Producer Robert Evans re- visits his hit movie. (CC)	*** "City of Ghosts" (2002, Crime Drama) Matt Dillon, James Caan, Natasha McElhone. A businessman searches for his kidnapped partner in Cambodia. (CC)	(8:15) *** "The Kid Stays in the Pic- ture" (2002) Producer Robert Evans re- visits his hit movie. (CC)	*** "City of Ghosts" (2002, Crime Drama) Matt Dillon, James Caan, Natasha McElhone. A businessman searches for his kidnapped partner in Cambodia. (CC)	(8:15) *** "The Kid Stays in the Pic- ture" (2002) Producer Robert Evans re- visits his hit movie. (CC)	*** "City of Ghosts" (2002, Crime Drama) Matt Dillon, James Caan, Natasha McElhone. A businessman searches for his kidnapped partner in Cambodia. (CC)	(8:15) *** "The Kid Stays in the Pic- ture" (2002) Producer Robert Evans re- visits his hit movie. (CC)	*** "City of Ghosts" (2002, Crime Drama) Matt Dillon, James Caan, Natasha McElhone. A businessman searches for his kidnapped partner in Cambodia. (CC)	(8:15) *** "The Kid Stays in the Pic- ture" (2002) Producer Robert Evans re- visits his hit movie. (CC)	
33	ADV 1 (8:30) Great Rick's Guest Visiting the Arctic to check global warming impact on polar bears.	***Surfer's Journal Rip	(8:30) Great Rick's Guest Visiting the Arctic to check global warming impact on polar bears.	***Surfer's Journal Rip	(8:30) Great Rick's Guest Visiting the Arctic to check global warming impact on polar bears.	***Surfer's Journal Rip	(8:30) Great Rick's Guest Visiting the Arctic to check global warming impact on polar bears.	***Surfer's Journal Rip	(8:30) Great Rick's Guest Visiting the Arctic to check global warming impact on polar bears.	***Surfer's Journal Rip	(8:30) Great Rick's Guest Visiting the Arctic to check global warming impact on polar bears.	
34	MTV Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica Thank- sgiving (15:00)	
35	NICK SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Jim	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Jim	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Jim	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Jim	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Jim	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	

JAPAN TV

Morning
9:00 MLB New York Mets vs. New York Yankees (12)
10:30 Athens Olympics Preliminary - Triathlon (12)
1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Noh and Kyogen (12)
2:50 2004 Mizuno Open Golf (N)
4:30 Ultimate Fighting: K-1 Preview (4)
5:00 Grand Sumo Tour in Yakushima Swallows (1)
6:30 Japan Pro Ball: Yakushima Swallows vs. Yokohama Deers (1)
7:00 Live (1)
7:30 Live (1)
8:00 Ultimate Fighting: K-1 Beat 2004 (1)
7:30 J League Soccer: Yokohama F. Marinos vs. Kashima Antlers (1)
9:00 U.S. Movie (2001): Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (15:00)
12:25 UEFA Euro 2004 Highlights (6)
1:10 World Pro Wrestling (12)
1:15 Wimbledon Tennis 2004 (1)

2:15 MLB: New York Yankees vs. New York Mets (6)
2:30 UEFA Euro 2004 Highlights (6)
3:30 J League Soccer: Tokyo Verdy vs. Alita Thiraita (4)
3:35 UEFA Euro 2004: Quarterfinals - Sweden vs. Netherlands (6)
4:00 Classical Music (1)(V)

JAPAN TV-BS7

Morning
6:00 TBS News from Around the World
6:30 TBS News from Around the World
7:00 TBS News from Around the World
7:30 TBS News from Around the World
8:00 BS Japan Times: World Reports
9:00 News Hours
10:00 BS Japan Times: World Reports
11:00 MLB: San Diego Padres vs. Seattle Mariners (6)
Afternoon
2:00 BS Saturday Sports: Road to Athens
3:00 Soccer J League: Jubilo Iwata vs. Sanfrecchi Hiroshima
5:00 Soccer J League Results

5:30 MLB: Inside Reports
Evening
9:00 A Century of FIFA (2)
9:30 Bullseye
11:00 BS Documentary: Abduction of Columbus
11:00 Presidential Campaign
11:30 CNN News
12:40 MotoGP: 6th Round, Dutch GP Highlights
2:30 NBCall Mountain
3:00 2004 Tokyo Jazz Festival
3:30 What's on Japan
4:00 J League Soccer: Tokyo Verdy vs. Alita Thiraita
5:00 PGA Golf: Booz Allen Classic, 3rd Round

JAPAN TV-BS11

Morning
8:00 Corning
8:30 Tokyo Jazz Play Back
9:00 U.S. Movie (2000): Whispers: An Elephant's Tale (1:15)
Evening

7:50 NHK News
12:00 City Life in Miami
12:25 U.S. Movie (1994): The Mask (1:45)
2:40 Classical Music
WOWOW
Morning
6:45 U.S. Movie (1928): The Circus (1:30)
8:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek
9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
10:00 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Highlights
10:30 British German (2002): Bert & I (Beckham 1:54)
4:50 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Highlights
Game 2: France vs. Greece (R)
5:50 U.S. Movie (2002): Unfaithful (1:27)
7:00 TV Series: Friends
12:25 TV Series: Sex and the City
1:30 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Highlights
Game 3: Sweden vs. Netherlands (Live)

MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
8:00 Classic 90s
9:00 Top Choice: Murrin
10:00 Catch Saturday
11:00 Catch Saturday
Evening
6:00 Check the Video
6:30 News: MNM
7:00 News: MNM
7:30 News: MNM
8:00 News: MNM
8:30 News: MNM
9:00 News: MNM
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10:00 News: MNM
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11:00 News: MNM
11:30 News: MNM

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Stars and Stripes (ISSN 147 900) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and 75 cents Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-5002.

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Keep flying the flag

As the Supreme Court ruled last week it was constitutional to pledge allegiance to our flag, our flag was coming under attack from yet another, unsuspected angle.

It seems the powers that be in Iraq have decided it is against the rules to display the American flag. All units have now been ordered to comply with this unconstitutional direction before the transfer of sovereignty on June 30.

There have been many orders that I have not understood here in Iraq, but I have dutifully obeyed them. As a well-trained soldier should, I am a proud American, and I am a proud soldier.

When I raised my hand to pledge my allegiance to my country and become a soldier in the U.S. Army eight years ago, I also pledged allegiance to our flag. Now they tell me that it is illegal to display that flag. I am confused, frustrated and heartbroken.

Our flag has flown on every battlefield that we Americans have found ourselves on since its establishment during the Revolutionary War.

Now, they tell me that it isn't politically correct. I have to wonder what the almost 850 soldiers who have given their lives for that flag in this war would have to say?

Our national anthem speaks of a horrible battle, with rockets and bombs bursting in air, yet through all that, in the dawn's early light, our flag was still there. In Iraq, there are bombs bursting in the air, yet even our flag will not be there.

Eight years ago I spoke a pledge; I would find myself in combat duty if I were now to be derailed in my sworn duty to uphold the honor of my nation's flag. My fallen brothers and sisters in arms — not only in this war but in all wars past — were willing to sacrifice it all for the physical representation for all that our country stands for.

I, too, am willing to make that sacrifice. Indeed, I may be called upon to do so at

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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any time. But I refuse to allow America's flag to be dishonored on my watch.

To me, to not display the flag on our nation's bases in Iraq is paramount to letting the flag touch the ground. In fact, it may be worse, and I cannot stand idly by without doing my best to restore America's flag to her rightful place of honor.

That is why I am writing. It is a plea to whomsoever reads it to get involved. Talk to your politicians. I may be, quite honestly, placing my military career in jeopardy because this type of policy criticism is simply not allowed.

However, if in some way this letter is able to convince the flag to her dignified position over the American soldiers struggling and giving their lives for the cause of freedom in a distant land, I will consider this and for their flag that is the physical representation for all that our country stands for.

I will stand with my fellow soldiers and salute her, for she will yet wave.

Sgt. Joshua Hawkins Cook

Forward Operation Base Danger, Iraq

Bush needs our support

I am a 12-year-old girl, living overseas, who has an opinion about President Bush.

While I don't really like the guy all that much — and I understand why others don't as well — I don't understand why everyone is continuously bashing him.

Didn't people choose him to be the one to make our country's decisions? Wasn't he elected to be our leader and commander in chief?

Why then are they making a big deal about his decision to go to war? I'm sure there are many more reasons that are undisclosed and, although I agree that we should know about them, I'm sure Mr. Bush didn't just roll out of bed and decide to send troops to the Middle East.

It is really easy for all those people to sit there and bash the president, but my question to them is: Did you ever think about what you would do in his shoes? Being the president isn't an easy job, and Bush didn't ask for any of this to happen.

I'm sure that if he (or anyone for that matter) would have known that he would have to lead the country into war and take all the garbage people are giving him, his outlook on running for president would have been different.

I'm not saying that I agree with all that he has done, and if I was in his position I may have done some things differently. But the American people voted him to be their leader and that is what he is trying to do.

The point I'm trying to get across is, Americans chose Bush for president, and even though we may not agree with what he has done, people need to try to understand the stress that he is experiencing and support whatever he decides.

Alyssa Howell

Mannheim, Germany

Correction

A letter to the editor in Wednesday's paper incorrectly identified the letter writer. The author of "Differing opinions are good" is Sir Wayne Wardlaw.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore

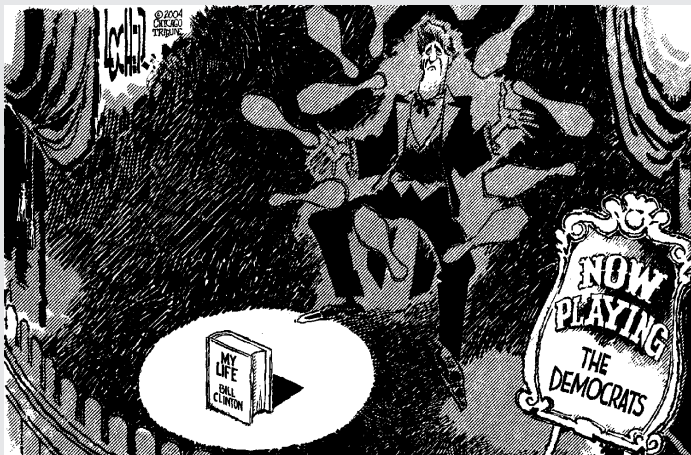
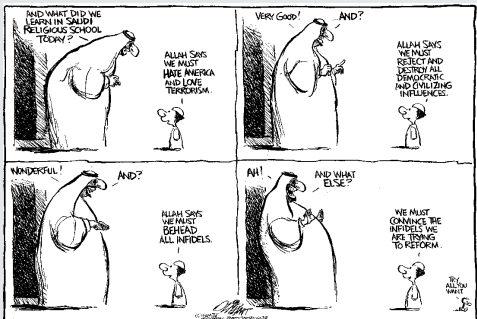
BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Wings turn 40

NY BUFFALO — This may be the only city in America where a man in a foam chicken wing hat would not be bounced from a meeting with top officials.

On the contrary, Buffalo's "wing king," Drew Cerza, was more than welcome Monday as Mayor Anthony Masiello, Erie County Executive Joel Gianbrea and the region's tourism chief, Richard Geiger, gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the spicy Buffalo wing.

Invented at Buffalo's Anchor Bar in 1964, the wing has its own festival each Labor Day weekend. After the birthday festivities, the Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau sent Cerza on the road for a four-city tour to promote the festival, and the rest of the region's assets.

The wing tour includes stops in Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa., and Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio.

Infant dies in bathtub

TX McALLEN — A woman was held Tuesday in lieu of bond in the drowning of her 10-month-old baby girl at a South Texas motel room.

Investigators say the 21-year-old Mexican national was arrested after the girl was found floating face up in a bathtub Sunday. The mother was accused of leaving two older children unsupervised in the tub with the water running while she left the room to make a call on a pay telephone. That was when the younger girl crawled in to join them.

Alma Luz Mendoza was arraigned Monday by McAllen Municipal Judge Kathleen Henley on two counts of child endangerment and one count of manslaughter. The judge set bond at a combined \$20,000.

Let me hear ya holler!

NC SPIRVEY'S CORNER — Kevin Jasper's "expressive" holler was also a winning one, bringing him the title of top yell for the second time at the 36th annual National Holler-in Contest.

Jasper, who also won in 2000, used an "expressive" holler, which he said is used for fun. Other yellers had more purposeful calls — to bring in cattle for milking or husbands for dinner.

Dr. Michael Zellinger, one of the judges, said the quality of a good holler is made with vocal control and authenticity.

John-Mark Herring, 13, was the only contestant in the teen division this year, guaranteeing him the title for a second time for his rendition of "fire truck sirens" and a "good morning holler."

"The good morning holler is one of the old-timers did back in the day to let people know they were feeling good," Herring said. "It keeps the tradition alive."

The event, held on Saturday, benefits the Spivey's Corner Volunteer Fire Department.

Birds over fireworks

WA CARNATION — Rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air may not be the best thing for baby birds, so a local Fourth of July fireworks display has been re-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

located to avoid disturbing an osprey nest.

Biologists determined that the eggs could hatch about July 4 and recommended an alternative site for the fireworks to avoid disrupting the two parents.

"The noise and obviously the flashes in the dark — the birds would have no ability to get used to something like that," state biologist Ruth Milner said.

Rather than shooting off skyrocketers and starbursts over the Tolt Middle School athletic fields, the show will be held about half a mile away at Tolt MacDonald Park, organizers said.

Ospreys, also known as fish hawks, can be two feet long with a six-foot wingspan. They are protected under state and federal law, and their nests may be moved from artificial structures only after the birds fly south in the fall, Milner said.

Community pool leaking

WI GRAFTON — Just as hot weather is finally arriving in Wisconsin, the village swimming pool has sprung a leak — to the tune of 35,000 gallons a day.

Local officials must decide whether to make the repair, which could shut down the pool for four weeks, or live with the leak through the swimming season — and pay \$8,500 in extra expenses to keep the pool filled.

Last summer, the Family Aquatic Center got 27,041 visitors over 75 days. Officials expected it would again bring in about \$125,000 in revenue, about cover-

ing the operating costs.

The leakage of 35,000 gallons a day is about one-tenth of the pool's volume. A fill valve automatically keeps the water level up.

Blossom burglar

VT BURLINGTON — South End residents are keeping their eyes peeled for a possible flower burglar. One couple has had three raids on their annuals this year. Jager Di Paola Kemp Design was hit, too. A flower bed at the Indigo Salon was destroyed. Handy's lunch lost 35 marigolds, geraniums and pansies from its bright flower bed in one night.

Owner Earl Handy said the spate of burglaries has given him how "tight-knit" the neighborhood is.

No one in the area has seen anything.

Resident Gayel Favalì is "irate, to say the least."

Deputy Chief Walt Decker said police are stepping up patrols in the area.

"It's such a low theft," Favalì said. "What kind of person would do that? It's like stealing your pet." "Stealing flowers," Handy said, speaking past the lunch crowd at his diner. "That's just not right."

Homeless evicted

HI HONOLULU — Homeless people illegally camping at a beach on Oahu's North Shore were evicted Tuesday by state and city law enforcement officers.

Those living at campsites at Mokuia were given 10 minutes to pack up and move.

The illegal campers were given eviction notices June 11, and were told they would be evicted if they remained on the beach after June 16, said Deborah Ward, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Advocating for the Kid

NM SILVER CITY — Silver City officials are asking Gov. Bill Richardson to leave Billy the Kid alone.

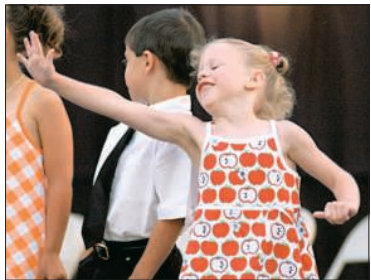
Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan launched an investigation last year of DeBaca County Sheriff Gary Graves into the Kid's 1883 death. They want to exhume his remains from a Fort Sumner grave and compare the DNA with that of his mother, Catherine Antrim, who is buried in Silver City.

Richardson has supported the investigation, saying it's time the truth is known now that DNA technology is available.

Both Fort Sumner and Silver City have fought the exhumation efforts, and on Monday, Silver City officials asked Richardson to disassociate himself from the investigation.

Sullivan has been investigating the Kid's escape from the Lincoln County jail 123 years ago. He has said the impetus began more than a decade ago when he visited a Hico, Texas, museum dedicated to Brushy Bill Roberts, who claimed to be the Kid.

Sullivan also wants to prove Sheriff Pat Garrett killed the Kid on July 14, 1881, in a Fort Sumner house. At least two people, including Roberts, later claimed to have been Billy.



I love you all

Savannah Whitehead gives a big wave to the crowd during the Little Miss and Little Mister contest at the Davies County Fair in Enola, Ind., on Tuesday.



Alaska watersports

Ashley Troutt kneelboards in Gastineau Channel near Sandy Beach in Juneau, Alaska, on Tuesday. Juneau, located in a temperate rain forest, experienced a fifth-straight day of temperatures in the 80s.



Giddeyap!

Whiplash the monkey rides his border collie at the El Kadir Shrine Pro Rodeo at the NEMO Fairgrounds in Kirksville, Mo.



Population foundation

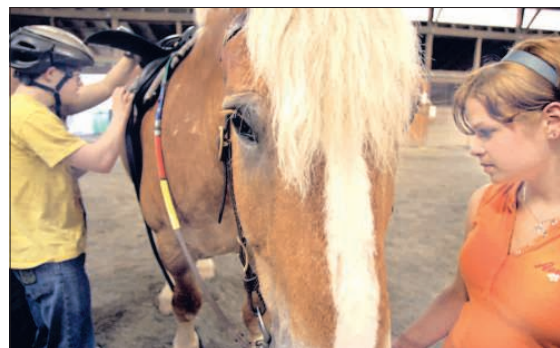
Young crabs from a Maryland hatchery are shown before being released in a tributary of the York River in Virginia. Among the calm backwaters sheltered from the river, Virginia Institute of Marine Science students plan to determine how practical stocking hatchery-reared crabs might be to rebuild the bay's diminishing blue crab population.



Watch out, fish
A group of fishermen wait for the start of the Wal-Mart FLW Bass Tournament on Wednesday at Mooney Bay Marina in New York. The professional tournament stop on Lake Champlain is the last on the 2004 schedule before the tour championship.



One in the box, one in my tummy
Kayli Nicholson, 4, eats a fresh strawberry while out picking them with her father in the pick-your-own fields at Harlow's Sugar House in Putney, Vt., on Tuesday.



Extra-special horse for extra-special riders
Holly Cairl, 15, right, holds Sam, a Belgian draft horse, steady as Equi-librium camper Jonathan Kuchinskas, 17, removes the saddle after a riding session in Snyder'sville, Pa. Equi-librium is a nonprofit organization that offers therapeutic horseback riding for people with special needs.

Art purchase pays off

NH DUBLIN — The friends pooled their money and paid \$3,200 for a painting at a church auction. Five months later, they put it up for sale at Sotheby's in New York. The winning bid: \$489,600, more than 150 times what they paid.

The roughly 13-inch by 11½-inch panel of the Madonna and child turned out to be the lost third of a 14th-century triptych painted by an unknown Sienese artist. It was donated to the church auction by Jessie Hale, of Dublin, whose family had owned it for nearly 100 years.

Word of the painting's worth has spread around town, and some residents say the buyers have a responsibility to donate some of their new fortune to Hale and the church. Buyer Rick O'Connor said he and his friends considered offering some of the money to Hale but may change their minds because of the hostility they've encountered.

Grandma thwarts robber

OH TOLEDO — Rita Dipman had seen enough, heard enough. When it started to happen to her, she was ready.

"If people don't fight back, it's gonna continue," she said. On Sunday afternoon, Dipman, 52, was eating at a Subway sandwich store with her 3-year-old granddaughter when a man robbed the store.

Seeing the commotion, Dipman scooped up her granddaughter and fled, but the fleeing robber caught up with them, brandished a knife and tried to grab Dipman's purse.

He might have picked on the wrong grandmother.

"He yanked and I yanked back," Dipman said. "I wasn't gonna let this guy get the better me. I was gonna protect my granddaughter, and I wasn't gonna let him hurt me."

Dipman's granddaughter screamed, and the man fled without getting the purse.

"I was trying to save her life, and I think by her screaming she might have saved both of us," she said.

Hispanic majority near

TX HOUSTON — Hispanics are on pace to outnumber whites in Texas by 2020 and they may even do it sooner, according to new state population estimates.

The Texas State Data Center's biennial population projection, released this week, is based on figures that show Hispanic growth continued in the financially troubled early 2000s while all other groups held steady.

Hispanic growth was more rapid from 2000 to 2002 because fewer people were coming to Texas while the economy was down, but the Hispanic birth rate in the state was much higher than that of other groups, said Texas state demographer Steve Murdock.

Stairs collapse; boy hurt

NY NEW YORK — An 8-year-old boy was hurt and 40 tenants were rescued after a staircase crumbled in a Brooklyn apartment building, authorities said.

The boy, whose name was not released, was standing on an upper level of the staircase inside 433 Dean St. in the Park Slope section

when the stairs collapsed at 9:25 p.m. Saturday.

He was taken to Lutheran Medical Center in stable condition, the Fire Department said.

Others escaped the five-story building's top floors through Fire Department ladders, said Firefighter Paul Iannizzotto, a department spokesman.

Buildings Department spokeswoman Ilyse Fink said the stairs collapsed because they had been improperly maintained.

The department issued a violation to the building's owner, she said.

Evidence room plundered

TN NASHVILLE — An investigation into corruption at the Memphis Police Department has revealed that nearly \$3 million worth of drugs and firearms couldn't be found by authorities looking into evidence room thefts.

The revelation came in a state audit, which was released Tuesday and was prepared to help federal authorities investigate abuses inside the police department's evidence room.

So far, 16 people, including two civilian employees but no commissioned police officers, have been charged in a scheme that links thefts from the evidence room to a cocaine dealing ring. Five of those defendants have pleaded guilty.

The case was sparked by the arrest of drug dealer Eric Brown, 35, who exposed the theft of drugs and guns from the Memphis Police Department. He has said he sold drugs stolen from the police "property room," where evidence from criminal investigations is stored.

3 days on a Ferris wheel

MO ST. LOUIS — Six people say they have a claim on the world record for consecutive hours on a Ferris wheel after three days spent on a ride at Six Flags St. Louis.

The roughly 36-hour record will be submitted to Guinness World Records this week. The riders got off the wheel twice during the contest that began Wednesday, due to lightning. They ate and slept on the wheel, and had privacy curtains and portable toilets.

The contest was in honor of the 1904 World's Fair, which was held in St. Louis and featured a Ferris wheel.

At the end of the contest, all six riders were entered into a drawing for \$1,000, which was won by Rhonda Crocker, 42, of Bonne Terre.

The five other riders were each given \$500 from Six Flags, three-year season passes to the park and concert tickets.

Backyard burial brawl

WV JUNIOR — A man diagnosed with a terminal illness is fighting officials for the right to be buried in his backyard.

Dan Vest has emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The Vietnam veteran said after town officials found out about his wishes they passed an ordinance outlawing burials on personal property within city limits.

Vest said he plans to sue the city, but representatives from the Barbour County Circuit Clerk's office say nothing has been filed to date.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The moon goes void of course in the afternoon, making it harder to tap into strong emotions and easier to entertain different viewpoints.

How can we make a decision when so many good reasons support both sides? The Cancer sun throws a light on domestic issues. It's lucky to start a home-improvement list, financial plan or relationship map.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(June 26). Your generosity is astounding this year, and because of it, you attract abundance in every area of your life, most importantly in the area of love and relationships. Next month, you'll have competition in the career department, but it's overcome if you're focused on beating your own records. You've got a tight connection with Leo and Pisces. Your lucky numbers are: 36, 1, 11, 50 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You enjoy the company of a special person and feel a special zest for life when he or she is around. The attraction is powerful, but don't let it override your own inner chorus. Healthy living is an interest worth following.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Make sure your choices are supporting your true worth. You deserve the best in life, so what is standing between you and that special something? Ask for workable solutions, and a few will drop seemingly from the sky.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You may start out feeling like you can't win, but you wind up feeling like you just did. There are minor eruptions as family members or friends squabble over the dumbest stuff. You know when to contribute and when to stay out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
The role you play in the big picture becomes clear. If you don't like it, the changes start now. You need time to yourself. Take as much as you can without letting children go neglected. An older family member would love to help you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

The thing about a plan is, it's seldom

right the first time. You've got to review it, revise it and rework it several times before it's a genius situation, but you're in this for the long haul. Being close to exciting and inspirational people helps.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Loved ones need to be understood and bend over backward for someone who just listens. Lucky for you, this is your specialty. Serious discussion leads you to rediscover deep, abiding passion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
It feels fantastic to get down to business. Self-expression has more to do with the goals you choose to pursue now than what you have to say. Let the voice mail answer some calls while you work on your to-do list.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're obsessed with unraveling a mystery! Twists and turns in the plot keep things interesting, so try not to be too frustrated by the pursuit. It turns better than actually getting what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You find a niche and fill it with a brilliant idea. Extra money is best spent on an educational investment or one having to do with technological advance. Also favored: novel short expeditions, classes and cultural events.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Moneymaking ideas are featured, and it's a task to brainstorm with your intelligent friends (like Aquarius). You love mixing business with pleasure this way. One caution, though: Avoid re-inventing the wheel. Do your research.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Simple works best, though people around you make it harder than it should be. Step back, and observe for a while before getting involved. Be careful not to dominate what should be a cooperative situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You're fishing out some of your tough love. It's challenging to know when to help and when to lead strictly by example. You're incredibly wise, and you'll be able to figure this one out like nobody before you could.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



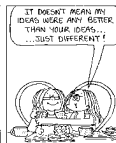
Jump Start



Zits



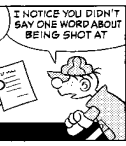
Cathy



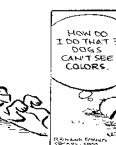
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



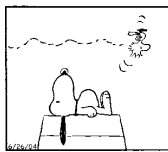
Red and Rover



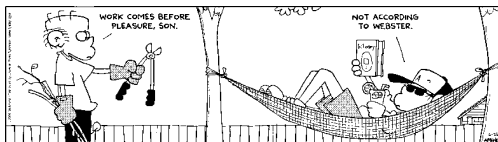
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



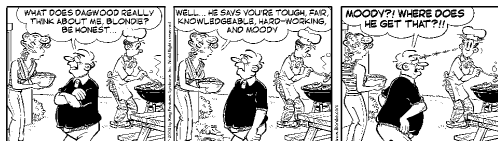
Baby Bites



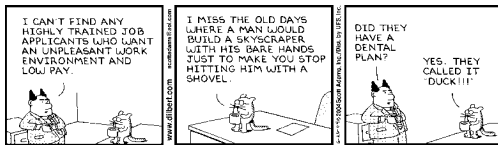
Spider Man



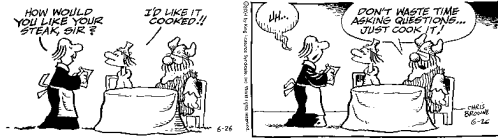
Blondie



Dilbert



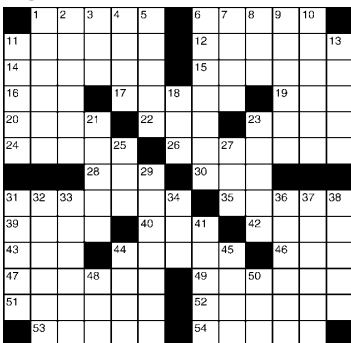
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



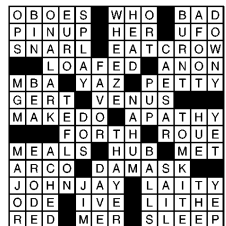
Across

- 1 Doubled
- 6 Rascally sort
- 11 Demosthenes, e.g.
- 12 Lives up to
- 14 Actress/singer Dixie
- 15 O. Henry-esque
- 16 Belly, for short
- 17 Authoritative
- 19 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 20 Ostriches' kin
- 22 St. Louis athlete
- 23 D.C. newspaper
- 24 Dwindle down
- 26 "...I've had a few,..."
- 28 Pitch
- 30 Carnival site
- 31 Type of letter
- 35 Art Fernand
- 39 Check
- 40 Solidly
- 42 "Mondo Cane" theme
- 43 Raw rock
- 44 Northern hemisphere?
- 46 One (Pref.)
- 47 Paganize
- 49 "Home Improvement" neighbor
- 51 Holy
- 52 Maroon
- 53 Cautious
- 54 Tackled

Down

- 1 Major shock
- 2 Practice session
- 3 Hirsute Addams
- 4 Dorm dweller
- 5 Foul-up
- 6 Subdued sparkle
- 7 Dagwood's boss's wife
- 8 "Can I take that as --?"
- 9 "Seven Year" star
- 10 Sermon spouter
- 11 Square dance group
- 13 Sings like Ella
- 18 Needlefish
- 21 Become established
- 23 Tourney format
- 25 Scoundrel
- 27 Hodges of baseball
- 29 Unkempt
- 31 Harvester's collection
- 32 Forward pass
- 33 Barbara Bush's maiden name
- 34 Marathon champ
- 36 Hair application
- 37 Maria's mister
- 38 Fishing net
- 41 Acting brothers
- 42 Rob and Chad
- 44 Roman road
- 45 Sly cry
- 48 Exist
- 50 Half of CIV

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-26

CRYPTOQUIP

CTV JRLVH JZ F TFOHQOVUV
EFLWZ FUCW HOLN QIFLC
E WDC H VFIK M V
UJLD OYVHVY F MONRON.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A POOL PLAYER DECIDES TO TARGET HIS SHOT DIFFERENTLY, IS THAT A POCKET CHANGE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: 1 equals L

Woman's fiancé lacking sex drive

Dear Abby: I'm engaged to a man who is a really good friend of mine. We have great times together watching movies or just hanging out.

The problem is I want to be intimate more than he does. He's a once-a-month kind of guy. I'm a once-a-day kind of girl. We have had many arguments about this because it seems like he doesn't want me. He says that's not true, that he is just tired, or stressed, etc. — the list is never-ending. We get along in every way except this one.

Am I being a baby, or is this not the relationship for me?

— Needs More in Moline, Ill.

Dear Needs More: Much as you may wish otherwise, he is not the man for you. You have a larger appetite than he can cater to. Marrying him will only com-

pound your problem. Keep him as a friend if you can, but don't marry him.

Dear Abby: "Frank" and I have been married for three years, but we have known each other since 1994. When we first met, we both drank and partied a lot, but neither of us has had a drink in about seven years.

Three years ago, Frank started gambling. We used to do it for entertainment, but now he takes off for hours and won't answer his phone when he's at the casino. He has won thousands of dollars and lost more.

I have threatened Frank with divorce. I have told him to get out (but he won't leave), threatened to leave him (but I never have), and I have wept, begged,

and even tried to ignore it.

I stay because I love him and want to help him with his problem, but I don't want to wind up living in a tent.

Please help.

— Losing Big in Tucson

Dear Losing Big: Your concerns are legitimate. It's no coincidence that your husband got hooked on gambling after he stopped drinking. It appears he traded one addiction for another.

A group that might help you is Gam-Anon Family Groups, a 12-step fellowship for husbands, wives, relatives and friends of compulsive gamblers — people whose lives have been affected by their loved ones' problem. The phone number is 718-352-1671 and the Web site is www.gam-anon.org.

Letters for this column — with name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MERIG

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GERAW

NARLAC

REFTER

www.jumble.com

Answer: AT

Yesterday's

Jumbles: STAUD PIPER CACTUS MUSKET

Answer: Why the young quarterback made the varsity team — HE PASSED THE TEST

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginon



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Siblings need to confront issues

Dear Annie: My elderly parents just left after an eight-day visit.

I live 100 miles away from my folks, and invited them to stay with us while their bathroom and kitchen are being renovated.

After talking to my Mom, I learned that the dust from the construction was so suffocating that my parents spent most of their days sitting in their car in the driveway.

What upsets me is that I have a brother who lives two miles away from my parents and knew of their situation, yet never invited them to stay in his home for even a few hours during the day. I'm so mad at my brother right now I am seeing red.

It also became clear during their visit that my father is ready for a nursing home. He can't see, hear or walk well, he forgets where he is and falls down frequently. My father, of course, won't acknowledge his problems. My siblings know Dad is not doing well, but they think Mom

Annie's Mailbox



can manage him. In fact, I know that Mom can't take it much longer.

How do you get someone into a nursing home who doesn't want to be there? And should I call my brother and read him the riot act?

— Angry Sister in Wisconsin

Dear Angry Sister: The decision about your father's care

should be made by your mother, your siblings, together. It's possible your father can receive care at home, at least for a while. Your mother can contact Eldercare at 1-800-677-1116 or seek guidance from a specialist.

As for your brother, you can read him the riot act, but it probably won't make any difference. If the construction is still going on, why not call your brother and suggest outright that he invite Mom and Dad over for the afternoon on a specific day? He might surprise you.

Dear Annie: We have a cousin who feels entitled to say horrid, accusatory things to others, and then expects the target to forget her verbal blasts and be jolly chums when they meet again. "Nancy" doesn't understand that harsh words may be unspoken, although a simple "I'm sorry" would undo much of the sting.

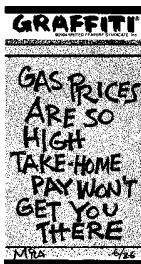
It's sad to see how many family members she has estranged. We want Nancy back in our family, but without the poison apple.

— Life Is Short

Dear Life Is Short: Since you want to salvage the relationship, you might say to her, "Sometimes you seem so angry. We love you and want you to be happy. Perhaps it would help if you talked to someone." If she seems agreeable, have the name of a therapist handy.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5771 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

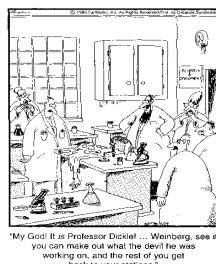
Family Circus



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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FACES 'N' PLACES

Members of Wilco pose on a rooftop in New York last week with the Brooklyn Bridge in the background. Wilco's latest album, "A Ghost Is Born," was released Tuesday. From left are John Stirratt, Nels Cline, Pat Sansone, Jeff Tweedy and Glenn Kotche.

AP photos



'Ghost' of a band Wilco takes another shape with release of its new CD

BY GREG KOT

Chicago Tribune

Wilco's forthcoming album, "A Ghost Is Born," ends not with a bang but with a wink. The final song, "Late Greats," takes a wry look at anonymity.

The best songs will never get sung

The best life never leaves your lungs

So good you won't ever know

You can't hear it on the radio

A listener familiar with Wilco's recent past will be tempted to hear those lines as at least partially autobiographical. Three years ago this month, the Chicago band was being shown the door by its old record company. Wilco's fourth record, "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," wasn't deemed hit-worthy enough for Reprise Records to even bother releasing it.

Then a funny thing happened on the way to record-industry oblivion.

Wilco took back its album, re-released it on the Internet, and then sold it to another label, Nonesuch Records. More than 400,000 sales later, Wilco had become a commercial force and a cause celebre with its own made-for-TV worship script (little band trumps big corporation).

"Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" was named album of the year in the annual Village Voice critics poll, and the band concluded its 2002-03 world tour by selling out two shows at the Auditorium Theatre, a \$200,000 weekend that by itself would've paid for the recording costs of "Foxtrot."

This noncommercial band suddenly was doing very well commercially, and "A Ghost Is Born" became one of the most anticipated releases of 2004. Then the floor began to give way, again. Keyboardist Leroy Bach quit the band a few months ago, the fifth defection or firing in the band's 10-year history. His amicable departure was closely followed by the hiring of two new musicians — guitarist Nels Cline and keyboardist Pat Sansone — on the eve of a world tour. Then band leader Jeff Tweedy checked himself into a rehab clinic to try to break an addiction to painkillers brought on by persistent migraine headaches.

"With the new band members and the new album, there was a lot of [expletive] at stake," drummer Glenn Kotche says. "We were going to be on the road the

next two years. Jeff had to do this to get healthy; otherwise, it could've turned out bad for everyone."

Tweedy emerged from rehab a few weeks ago with the migraines under control, saying that he felt better than he has in years. And after a handful of canceled tour dates, the new six-piece lineup was preparing for the June 22 release of "A Ghost Is Born."

Rather than progressing in baby steps or simply refining its best moves, Wilco has turned each album into a new opportunity to reinvent itself. The sole exception was "A.M." (1995), which blended twang with punk, a tentative extension of Tweedy's work with Stirratt in Uncle Tupelo. "Being There" (1996) was the great leap forward, as it touched on everything from country-soul to noise rock. "Summerteeth" (1999) explored lush orchestral pop, and "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" (2002) tucked

Wilco has turned each album into a new opportunity to reinvent itself.

meditative folk-rock songs inside meticulously layered soundscapes. Sprinkled in between were a pair of "Mermaid Avenue" albums with British folkie Billy Bragg, and a fresh take on the lyrics of Dutch Bowl balladeer Woody Guthrie.

"A Ghost Is Born" is yet one more left turn down a dark alley of new possibilities. It finds Tweedy becoming an even more adventurous singer: the intimacy he conveys in the opening seconds of "At Least That's What You Said," the falsetto he unleashes in "Hummingbird," the preacherous seductiveness he conveys in "Hell Is Chrome."

Then there's Tweedy's emergence as a lead guitarist, a job he had previously assigned to other, more technically accomplished musicians in the band. Now he's out front, taking solos that shirk and shudder like the poltergeist referenced in the album title. When he tears loose over Kotche's boisterous drumming in the final bars of "At Least That's What You Said," it's exhilarating.

Darin Gray, an old musician friend of Tweedy's from pre-Uncle Tupelo days, says the guitarist's willingness "to just put it out there, no matter what anyone says," has enabled him to take risks other artists avoid. "I don't think he's saying, 'Look at me, I'm a great guitarist,' but he's confident in his ability to express himself. Before he might default to other, more accomplished musicians, like Jay Farrar in Uncle Tupelo or Jay Bennett in Wilco, but now there are no crutches left."

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Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division		Pct	GB
New York	40	51	563
Baltimore	39	48	563
Tampa Bay	34	48	563
Seattle	34	48	563
Toronto	41	431	141

Central Division		Pct	GB
Minnesota	40	563	
Cleveland	39	48	563
Chicago	35	48	563
Kansas City	41	431	141

West Division		Pct	GB
Texas	40	51	563
Anaheim	39	48	563
Los Angeles	35	48	563

Wednesday's games		Pct	GB
Minnesota @ Toronto	2	1	10
Seattle @ N.Y. Yankees	3	5	5
Tampa Bay @ Chicago White Sox	5	1	5
Kansas City @ Detroit	3	1	5

Thursday's games		Pct	GB
Tampa Bay @ Toronto	2	1	10
Detroit @ Boston	3	1	5
Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland	2	1	5
Detroit @ Kansas City	2	1	5

Friday's interleague games		Pct	GB
Chicago (P) @ N.Y. Yankees	5	1	5
St. Louis (N) @ Toronto (A)	5	1	5
Atlanta (W) @ Detroit (A)	5	1	5

Saturday's games		Pct	GB
Minnesota @ Toronto	2	1	10
Seattle @ N.Y. Yankees	3	5	5
Tampa Bay @ Chicago White Sox	5	1	5
Kansas City @ Detroit	3	1	5

Sunday's games		Pct	GB
Minnesota @ Toronto	2	1	10
Seattle @ N.Y. Yankees	3	5	5
Tampa Bay @ Chicago White Sox	5	1	5
Kansas City @ Detroit	3	1	5

Twins & Red Sox 2		Pct	GB
Minnesota	40	51	563
Boston	39	48	563

Wednesday's games		Pct	GB
Minnesota @ Toronto	2	1	10
Seattle @ N.Y. Yankees	3	5	5
Tampa Bay @ Chicago White Sox	5	1	5
Kansas City @ Detroit	3	1	5

Blue Jays 2, Devil Rays 1 (10)		Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	40	51	563
Toronto	39	48	563

Wednesday's games		Pct	GB
Minnesota @ Toronto	2	1	10
Seattle @ N.Y. Yankees	3	5	5
Tampa Bay @ Chicago White Sox	5	1	5
Kansas City @ Detroit	3	1	5

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Tampa Bay @ Chicago White Sox	5	1	5
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Boston	39	48	563

AL leaders		Pct	GB
Baltimore	40	51	563
Tampa Bay	39	48	563
Seattle	34	48	563
Toronto	41	431	141

Rangers 6, Mariners 3		Pct	GB
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Pirates 2, Astros 2		Pct	GB
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Houston	39	48	563

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Pittsburgh	40	51	563
Houston	39	48	563

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rink		1	3	1	1	0	0
aka W-5-2							

Griffey's sun shot key blow for Reds

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Cameron lost Nino Griffey Jr.'s bases-loaded fly ball in the sun, allowing Reds to score in a five-run seventh inning as the Cincinnati Reds rallied past the New York Mets 6-2 on Thursday.

Cincinnati's Cory Lidle (5-5) pitched eight innings, allowing nine hits and no walks while striking out seven.

Cameron's error forced a strong start by Tom Glavine, who leads the major leagues with a 2.11 ERA. Glavine took a 1-0 lead into the seventh, but gave up singles to Tim Lincecum and Javier Vazquez. After a sacrifice, Ricky Bottalico relieved and allowed Ryan Freden's groundout that tied the game. Hummel with the tying run, Juan Castro then walked, bringing up Sean Casey.

Jose Stanton relieved and walked Casey, loading the bases for Griffey. Stanton appeared to escape the jam when Griffey hit a fly ball to center, but Cameron, at the time Gold Glove winner, lost it in the tough sun for the two-base error. Adam Dunn followed with an RBI single.

Expos 3, Phillies 2: Tony Armas Jr. pitched six scoreless innings for his first victory in 14 months and Tony Batista hit a two-run homer off Montreal.

Armas (1-2) had shoulder surgery in May 2003 and missed the first two months of this season while recovering from a strained right rotator cuff. He gave up three hits, walked three and threw out seven. He won for the first time since April 10, 2003.

Montreal left fielder Brad Wilkerson threw out Jim Thome, the potential tying run, on a close play at the plate to end the eighth.

Rockies 3, Brewers 0: Mark Sweeney hit a two-run homer to back Aaron Cook as Colorado got a rare victory in a road series.

Colorado, a major league-worst 10-26 on the road, took two of three from the Brewers. The Rockies had won just one other road series this year, winning two games in San Diego from May 31-June 2.

Cook (2-2) won for the first time in four starts, allowing eight hits, all singles, in eight innings. Shawn Camp finished for his 15th save in 21 chances.

In Wednesday's NL games: **Padres 4, Diamondbacks 3:** David Wells worked into the eighth inning and gave up just two runs, but the bullpen failed to hold the lead before Terrence Long's homer in the ninth gave the host Padres a victory.

Since his last victory on May 5, Wells has given up just 10 runs in 40 1/3 innings but is 0-3 with three no-decisions.



Montreal's Einar Diaz slides into second with a double as Philadelphia second basemen Thomas Perez attempts to tag him out.

Johnson, seeking his 10th victory, pitched seven innings, giving up three runs and seven hits while striking out eight — leaving him eight shy of 4000.

Elmer Dessens (1-5) gave up Long's homer at the right-field pole with one out in the ninth.

Phillies 5, Expos 2: At Montreal, Jim Thome hit his major league-leading 24th homer and Kevin Millwood won for the first time in eight starts.

Marlins 6, Braves 0: Brad Penny (7-5) allowed four hits over six innings to win for the first time in five starts.

Jeff Conine homered for the first time in more than a month to help host Florida hand Atlanta its sixth loss in seven games.

Cardinals 10, Cubs 9: So Taguchi scored the go-ahead run on Paul Bako's passed ball in the eighth inning.

Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer for the host Cardinals, his 20th. Steve Kline (2-1) retired the last five batters to beat Mike Remlinger (0-1).

Reds 6, Mets 4 (12): Sean Casey hit his second two-run homer in the 12th inning off John Franco (1-4) and finished with five hits.

Wily Mo Pena and D'Angelo Jimenez also connected for the visiting Reds, who snapped New York's season-high five-game winning streak.

Pirates 7, Astros 2: Ryan Vogelsong allowed (2-7) two hits in six innings to win for the first time in 12 starts and Jason Kendall hit his first grand slam as visiting Pittsburgh snapped a five-game losing streak.

Rockies 3, Brewers 2: Shawn Estes had a run-scoring double off Chris Capuano (2-3) and reliever Shawn Camp worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the ninth inning for his 14th save.

Estes (8-3) allowed two runs in 7 1/3 innings and Aaron Miles had a two-run single in the three-run third for the visiting Rockies.

Giants 3, Dodgers 2: Ray Durham hit a bases-loaded triple and Jerome Williams (7-5) allowed six hits and two runs in six innings in the host Giants' fifth straight victory and third in a row over Los Angeles.

Jeff Weaver (5-8) allowed five hits and three runs in six innings, retiring 10 of his last 11 batters.

Devils Rays get back to winning

Tampa sets club records for runs, hits vs. Toronto

The Associated Press

TORONTO — A day after their club-record 12 game winning streak ended, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays set team records for runs and hits in a 19-13 rout of the Toronto Blue Jays on Thursday.

Jose Cruz Jr., Carl Crawford and Geoff Blum homered for the Devil Rays, who finished with 24 hits. The old club records were 15 runs and 21 hits.

Julio Lugo went 5-for-7 to set a team record for hits and Tampa Bay tied a team mark with 11 walks.

Every Tampa Bay starter drove in at least one run except Aubrey Huff and all had hits except rookie Jose Bautista.

Cruz hit his 165th career homer, matching the total his father amassed in 18 seasons.

Tampa Bay starter John Halama (4-1) won despite allowing five runs and eight hits in five innings. Orlando Hudson and Dave Berg hit three-run homers in the ninth off Rob Bell, who earlier allowed solo shots by Eric Hinske and Kevin Cash. The Blue Jays had 15 hits.

Athletics 2, Angels 1: Mark Mulder matched his career best by winning his seventh straight decision and Jermaine Dye hit a two-run homer for visiting Oakland. Mulder (9-2) pitched his major league-leading fourth complete game, allowing four hits. He struck out four and walked three.

Mulder, unbeaten in 10 starts since an April 28 loss at Yankee Stadium, has allowed no more than two earned runs in seven of his past eight starts, lowering his ERA to 2.76.

Dye homered on the second pitch from reliever Scott Shields (5-1) in the sixth.

Twins 4, Red Sox 3 (10): Lew Ford hit a sacrifice fly following a two-base error by Nomar Garciaparra in the 10th inning.

Keith Foulke (2-1) started the 10th by getting Christian Guzman to start the homer and the ball past first baseman Kevin Millar into the Boston dugout.

Guzman took third on Jose Offerman's sacrifice, then scored on Ford's fly to left.

Grant Balfanz (2-0) got the win and Joe Nathan finished for his 21st save in 22 chances as the visiting Twins won for the sixth time in eight games.

David Ortiz had a homer and a two-run single for Boston, which has lost six of nine.

Tigers 12, Royals 3: Ivan Rodriguez had three doubles and a single to raise his AL-leading batting average to .373 and drove in four runs as visiting Detroit ended a five-game losing streak.

White Sox 7, Indians 1: Jon Rauch (1-1) gave host Chicago its first victory since No. 5 starter, a group which had previously been 0-8. Jose Valentin hit a three-run homer in the eighth and the White Sox tacked on four runs in the eighth.



Detroit's Ivan Rodriguez drove in two runs with this fourth-inning double against the Kansas City Royals.

In Wednesday's AL games:

Blue Jays 2, Devils Rays 1 (10): Reed Johnson's 10th-inning single scored pinch-runner Chris Woodward as host Toronto ended Tampa Bay's 12-game winning streak. Dave Berg led singled off Jesus Colome (1-1). Frank Menchino walked and Howie Clark sacrificed to set the stage for Johnson.

Athletics 7, Angels 1: Mark Redman beat the host Angels for the first time in five career decisions. Scott Hatteberg hit two sacrifice flies and Oakland ended a four-game losing streak.

Orioles 13, Yankees 2: David Newhan, signed last Friday, had career highs of four hits and three RBIs for the host Orioles, who had lost nine straight against New York, including seven games this year.

Twins 4, Red Sox 2: Torii Hunter had a home run and three RBIs for Minnesota and Carlos Silva (8-4) allowed two runs in 6 1/3 innings. Jose Nathan pitched the third for the 20th save.

Indians 9, White Sox 5: Ben Broussard hit a grand slam in the eighth, his second homer this season, and Ronnie Belliard homered in his third straight game.

Rangers 6, Mariners 3: Nick Bierbrodt (1-0) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings to win for the first time since Oct. 4, 2001, with Tampa Bay.

Royals 7, Tigers 3: Dee Brown hit a two-run single in a four-run first and the host Royals also got RBI doubles from Mike Sweeney and Joe Randa.

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Croatian teen topples Venus

Second-seeded American loses in two sets amid controversy

By STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — The umpire lost track of the score.

Venus Williams lost the match. In a bizarre conclusion to a huge upset, the chair umpire called the wrong score in the second tiebreaker, and Williams fell in straight sets Thursday to Croatia's 19-year-old Karolina Sprem in the second round at Wimbledon.

The Williams match overshadowed victories by Andy Roddick, Roger Federer, Lleyton Hewitt and Goran Ivanisevic and a second-round defeat for former nine-time champion Martina Navratilova.

The 19-year-old Sprem, ranked No. 30, pulled up the second-seeded Williams on Centre Court 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) in the first big surprise of the championship.

Umpire Ted Watts incorrectly called the score 2-2 in the second-set tiebreaker, giving Sprem a point when she should have been taking a second serve.

Both players seemed confused, but neither disputed the call.

Referee Alan Mills confirmed the umpire made a mistake but said the result would remain.

It's the earliest defeat for Williams in a Grand Slam tournament since a first-round loss in the French Open in 2001. It's also her earliest exit from Wimbledon since going out in the opening round in 1997.

Williams, who won Wimbledon in 2000 and 2001 and lost in the past two finals to her sister, Serena, didn't blame the scoring error

for her defeat. She had plenty of chances to force a third set, but blew three set points and lost the last five points.

"I don't think one call makes a match," she said.

Mills said players have the responsibility to challenge the umpire if they feel the score is wrong. "Unfortunately, the way it happened, Venus didn't query it at the time," he said. "They played point after point afterward and the result, I'm afraid, stands as is."

The 47-year-old Navratilova, playing singles at Wimbledon for the first time in 10 years, lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to Gisela Dulko, who beat her in the first round of the French Open last month.

Ivanisevic, recovering some of the magic of his improbable run to the 2001 title, pulled out a five-set victory to set up a third-round showcase against former champion Hewitt.

The Croatian, who missed Wimbledon the past two years with injuries and is retiring after this tournament, came up with timely shots to outlast Italy's Filippo Volandri, 4-6, 7-6 (8), 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Hewitt, who won the 2002 championship after the Croatian was unable to defend his title because of a shoulder injury, defeated Georgia's Irakli Labadze 6-4, 6-4, 6-1.

Federer, the top-seeded defending champion, beat Colombian jockey Alejandro Falla 6-1, 6-2, 6-0 in 54 minutes — one of the fastest men's matches in recent Grand Slam history — to sweep into the third round.

The second-seeded Roddick took advantage of an early start



Karolina Sprem of Croatia (above), a 19-year-old ranked 30th in the world, upset No. 3 seed Venus Williams 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) on Thursday.

and a break in the weather to finish a 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 win over Taiwan's Wang Yeu-Tzuo in a match suspended by rain at 4-2 in the first set Sunday.

Also advancing was third-seeded Guillermo Coria, who completed a rain-delayed 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-7 (3), 6-3 win over 106th-ranked Wesley Moodie of South Africa.

But the day will be remembered most for Williams' loss.

She was leading 2-1 in the second tiebreaker when Sprem's first serve was wide and called out by the line judge. Williams casually hit the ball back and Sprem hit a backhand into the open court with Williams standing still, figuring the point was over.

Watts called the score 2-2, but the players lined up in the same positions for what should have been a second serve. Sprem hit a

86 mph serve, and Williams hit a backhand return winner.

That should have made the score 3-1, but Watts called it 3-2.

Williams still squandered a big chance to even the match. She took a 6-3 lead, giving her three set points. Sprem erased the first with a forehand passing winner and Williams wasted the second with a double fault and the third with a forehand into the net.

At 6-6, Williams' forehand volley hit the top of the net but fell back on her side, giving Sprem her first match point. The match ended on the next point when Williams hit a forehand long.

Asked whether she considered questioning the score, Williams said, "Yes, but I didn't want to lose my focus. At the time, I felt that maybe I had lost track, or couldn't be sure."

Oregon football put on probation

No bowl ban or loss of scholarships enforced

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — An Oregon assistant football coach violated NCAA recruiting rules when he tried to lure a junior college transfer to the school in January 2003, resulting in a two-year probation for the school.

The Pacific-10 school remains eligible for postseason play and will not lose any scholarships, NCAA spokeswoman Kay Hawes said Wednesday.

The case centers on a "series of impermissible" contacts by the assistant and a national letter of intent that had a forged signature, the NCAA said. The athlete involved was not identified and does not attend Oregon.

The assistant, Gary Campbell, was suspended without pay for one week during the past school year, and he was not allowed to recruit until January. The university also restricted the number of coaches allowed off campus to recruit last season.

"We're trying to win the right way and we're not going to cheat," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said. "I feel very bad about this because it happened under my watch."

The case was resolved without a formal hearing. The NCAA's governing body agreed with the university's proposed penalties and did not impose additional sanctions.

"The violation was self-discovered here in the program, it was self-reported. We cooperated fully with both the Pac-10 and NCAA," said Bill Moos, Oregon's athletic director. "We're very proud of the fact that we did not have a major NCAA violation in 1, believe, 20 years. So we take this very seriously."

Bertuzzi charged with assault for his on-ice attack

The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Vancouver Canucks star Todd Bertuzzi was charged with assault Thursday for a sucker-punch that broke Steve Moore's neck and left him in a pool of blood.

Sports briefs

The charges were announced by the criminal justice branch of the ministry of the attorney general after a four-month investigation.

Bertuzzi was ordered to appear in court July 9. If convicted, the 29-year-old player could face a penalty ranging from jail time to a guilty decision with no criminal record.

Pat Morris, Bertuzzi's agent, refused to discuss his client's reaction to the decision. Moore was hospitalized after the attack on March 8 with three fractured vertebrae, facial cuts, post-concussion symptoms and amnesia. Nerves in the neck area were

stretched. Doctors say it's not known if the Colorado Avalanche team can play again.

The NHL suspended Bertuzzi for the final 13 games of the regular season and Vancouver's seven playoff games. Bertuzzi was left off Canada's roster for this fall's World Cup.

Bertuzzi could face a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail if the trial is held in B.C. Supreme Court. Legal experts say that penalty would be reserved only for the worst cases with repeat offenders.

If the case is heard in B.C. provincial court, the maximum penalty is 18 months. The venue is up to the Crown, which has yet to decide, according to Geoffrey Gaul, director of legal services for the B.C. Criminal Justice Centre of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Marlins' Florida likely headed to DL

MIAMI — Florida ace Josh Beckett is probably headed to the disabled list. Beckett, trying to recover from a strained back muscle, felt pain Wednesday while

throwing for a second consecutive day.

A team spokesman said the World Series MVP will likely be put on the 15-day DL for the second time in less than a month.

The Marlins were not sure who would replace Beckett (4-4, 3.86 ERA) in the rotation, but left-hander Darren Oliver is an obvious choice. He has started eight games this season.

Boston 2B Reese hurts thumb

BOSTON — Red Sox second baseman Pokey Reese is expected to miss at least two games with a partially torn ligament in his left thumb.

Reese was hurt during Boston's 4-2 loss to Minnesota on Wednesday when he dove for a ground ball. Team doctor Bill Morgan doesn't expect that Reese will need surgery.

Chinese officials missed \$13 million intended for 2008 Olympics

BEIJING — Chinese sports officials missed more than \$13 million designated for

the 2008 Beijing Olympics to build apartments for their staff, state media said Thursday.

The money diverted to apartment construction was among \$15.9 million in misused Olympic funds found by an audit of the Beijing sports bureau, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Some \$13.2 million was spent on apartments, with the rest invested illegally in companies, Xinhua said, citing a report to parliament by China's auditor-general, Li Jinhua.

Fichardt takes early lead in French Open

VERSAILLES, France — Darren Fichardt birdied five of the last nine holes Thursday to complete a round of 5-under 66 and take a one-stroke lead over Ian Woosnam in the French Open.

Woosnam overcame swirling, gusty winds to shoot 67, one shot better than Australia's Richard Green. Frenchman Jean-Francois Remesy and Belgium's Nicolas Colaserts carded 69s.

Mavs send Jamison to D.C.

Dallas trades for No. 5 pick, Stackhouse, Laettner

BY JAIME ARON

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks agreed Wednesday night to trade Antawn Jamison to the Washington Wizards for the No. 5 pick in the draft, Jerry Stackhouse and Christian Laettner, a source close to the deal told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The trade can't be official until the NBA offices open Thursday.

By then, Dallas may be working toward other deals in its pursuit of Shaquille O'Neal.

While O'Neal remains the center of the Mavericks' dreams, the high pick also gives them the chance to take 7-foot-5 Pavel Podkolzine, a 19-year-old Russian.

Podkolzine or the pick also could be the part of the package the Mavericks would offer the Los Angeles Lakers for O'Neal.

Dallas did not previously have a first-round pick in Thursday night's draft, having traded it last summer to Boston in the deal for Antoine Walker.

The Wizards had made it clear they weren't enamored with any of their choices at the top of the draft. Taking Jamison, a proven scorer over his six-year career in Dallas and Golden State, is a much safer move, even if he is owed nearly \$58 million over the next four years.

For the Mavericks, all moves for the immediate fu-

ture will be viewed as positioning for a prospective trade for O'Neal.

Other than the pick/Podkolzine aspect, the benefit of getting Laettner is that he's going into the last year of his contract, like Walker. That makes them commodities because their salaries — a combined \$20.8 million — would open huge cap room next summer.

Their combined salaries puts Dallas much closer to the \$23.5 million salary and get within the league-mandated 15 percent of O'Neal's \$27.7 million price tag.

It's unlikely the Lakers would be interested in Stackhouse, who is due \$7 million next season, \$7.5 million the following year and \$8 million after that.

Stackhouse has averaged 21 points per game over his nine-year career, but he played just 26 games last season because of injuries, mainly to his right knee.

This is the second time the Mavs have acquired Laettner. He played 53 games in the 2000-01 season, then was dealt to Washington in an eight-player trade that brought Juwan Howard to Dallas.

Dallas acquired Jamison last summer expecting to pair him at forward with Dirk Nowitzki, then bumped him to the bench when Walker arrived during training camp. He accepted the demotion and saved the team's success as he made the playoffs for the first time. He was rewarded by earning the league's Sixth Man award, but made it clear he wanted to be a starter next season.

Riley confirms meeting with Lakers

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Miami Heat president Pat Riley confirmed Wednesday that he met with Los Angeles Lakers officials about their coaching vacancy, but stressed that no contract offers or demands were made.

Riley, in a statement distributed by team officials, said a meeting took place after Lakers owner Jerry Buss and general manager Mitch Kupchak asked for and received permission from Heat owner Micky Arison.

"During our discussion, which lasted a few hours, there was never any demands made by me nor was there ever an offer presented by them," Riley said in the statement. "It was simply a long philosophical discussion about the situation."

Riley did not specify when the meeting took place. On Saturday, he said through a Heat spokes-

man that he was seeking to extend his contract as Miami's president and that reports linking him with the Lakers' coaching search were merely "rumors."

The Lakers are searching for a successor to coach Phil Jackson, who helped the franchise win three NBA titles in five seasons. The announcement that Jackson wouldn't return next season was made last Friday, just three days after the Lakers lost to the Detroit Pistons in the NBA Finals.

Riley, a winner of 1,110 games in 21 seasons, led the "Showtime" Lakers of Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to titles in 1982, 1985, 1987 and 1988. He also coached the New York Knicks (1991-95) and the Heat (1995-2003), resigning from the Miami job four days before last season began.

Source: Okafur opt for final spot on Olympic team

With one roster spot remaining to be filled, the U.S. Olympic basketball team is expected to choose size over shooting ability.

Among the final candidates are Emeka Okafor, Brad Miller and The Ratliff, a source told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Carmelo Anthony has accepted an invitation to join the team, but two members of the NBA champion Detroit Pistons — Richard Hamilton and Ben Wallace — have declined, two sources close to USA Basketball said on condition of anonymity.

Following a slew of withdrawals and rejected invitations, the unofficial U.S. roster now includes Duncan, Iverson, Anthony, LeBron James, Richard Jefferson, Stephon Marbury, Dwyane Wade, Shawn Marion, Amare Stoudemire, Lamar Odom and Carlos Boozer.

Fisher opts out of contract

LOS ANGELES — Derek Fisher, a key member of the Los Angeles Lakers the past eight seasons, opted out of his contract Wednesday to become an unrestricted free agent.

Fisher joins Kobe Bryant and Karl Malone in exercising options to become free agents.

Longhorns await CWS final opponent

BY ERIC OLSON

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Texas will be meeting with South Carolina and Cal State Fullerton meet again in the College World Series.

"The advantage is ours," Texas coach Augie Garrido said.

The top-seeded Longhorns (58-13), playing for their second national championship in three years, advanced to the best-of-three final with a 7-6 comeback victory over Georgia on Wednesday.

South Carolina beat Fullerton 5-3 to force a rematch with the Titans on Thursday night for a spot in the final.

South Carolina coach Ray Tanner and Fullerton's George Horton were considering using their top starters — the Gamecocks' Matt Campbell (10-5) and the Titans' Jason Windsor (12-4).

Windsor threw a three-hitter in beating Campbell and the Gamecocks 2-0 in the first round.

"We're here to win a national championship, and you can only do that if you get to [the finals]," Horton said. "If Ray uses Campbell and we use Windsor, then advantage Augie, I guess."

A South Carolina victory would set up a rematch of its 2002 CWS final against Texas. The Gamecocks (53-16) have advanced to the final three times, but have never won a title.

Fullerton (44-22) is seeking its fourth title. The Titans won in 1979, '84 and '95, all under Garrido.

The Longhorns are set to start All-American J.P. Howell, the Big 12 Pitcher of the Year, on Saturday in the first game of the best-of-three final. He allowed two hits in his first inning in Texas' 13-2 first-round victory over Arkansas.

In Texas' victory over Georgia (45-23), Carson Kainer doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh

inning, and Huston Street (6-1) pitched three innings of one-run relief. Georgia lost twice to Texas in the tournament, squandering a five-run lead Wednesday.

"They're a championship ballclub that continues to answer everything that opponent brings at them," Bulldogs coach David Perdue said.

The Longhorns' rally marked the first time in the CWS that a team has rallied from five runs down to win. Stanford erased an eight-run deficit to beat Tulane in 2001.

"I believe that's the 27th time we've come from behind to win, so it wasn't our first rodeo," Garrido said.

In the second game, Jason Fletcher and Chad Blackwell combined to hold Fullerton hitless over the last five innings. Bryan Triplett homered and drove in the go-ahead run for South Carolina.

Fletcher (6-1) went six innings and allowed all five Fullerton runs. Fletcher and Blackwell combined to retire 16 of the last 17 batters after Ronnie Prettymann's bunt single in the fourth inning.

"Last night when I got the word loss, I was going to start. I had chills going all night," Fletcher said. "I tried to call everybody I knew to let them know they should watch the game tomorrow. We deserve this, to be out here and still playing."

Blackwell earned his nation-leading 20th save.

"That's a little bit long for a closer to go three innings, but if you don't win, you don't play, so we ran him out there and it worked out for us," Gamecocks coach Ray Tanner said.

Mike Martinez (8-3) took the loss. He allowed five runs and 11 hits in 6 1/3 innings.

"Everybody wanted a day off tomorrow, but we're working," Horton said. "We got outplayed, plain and simple."

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A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Truex Jr. likes view from top

Busch Series leader benefits from Earnhardt Jr.'s friendship, tutelage in first full season on circuit

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Life can't get much better for Martin Truex Jr. right now.

In his first full season, Truex leads the NASCAR Busch Series points race with four victories and five poles thanks — in part — to bosses Teresa and Dale Earnhardt Jr. giving him the best equipment and crew available.

"Life is good," Truex said with a smile. "No complaints from me. Winning races is what I love to do, and I'm just having a lot of fun with it."

And he's also become good friends with Earnhardt.

As his boss, Earnhardt provides top equipment through Chance 2 Motorsports, co-owned with his stepmother, and he offers tips to help Truex become a better driver.

As his friend, Earnhardt hangs out with Truex, playing racing video games.

"We've become real good friends," Truex said. "He's always putting some bug in my ear about something we're trying to do and how we're doing. He's been real great and a lot of fun."

It's a relationship only racing could have created.

Earnhardt is the son of the late Dale Earnhardt, who earned seven Cup championships and won 76 races. Truex's father also likes racing, but he never got beyond NASCAR's Busch North Series before giving up his seat to his son.

"Martin's doing great, and I'm really proud how he's handled the pressure," Earnhardt said. "We have a team that is capable of winning races and winning the Busch Series championship. There are no excuses,

so that means the pressure's on Martin to perform."

Racing — and winning — comes naturally to Truex. He was just a toddler when he first started going to tracks around Mayetta, N.J.

Forget video games or sitting on the couch as a child. Truex was busy riding four-wheelers or his motorcycle with his friends. By age 8, he was building engines on his own, and he started racing go-karts at 11.

But it was his mother, Linda, who drove him to the track because his father was busy with his own races.

Truex won the junior class title in 1993 at New Egypt Speedway and took the New Jersey Championship Series in 1994 at the same track. He moved up to modifieds when he turned 18 and won his first modified race in his eighth start.

"Yet his father could only give him advice during the week. He didn't get to come to the racetrack and help me," Truex said. "People helped me... but I had to do a lot of learning on my own and figure out what was right and wrong."

By 2000, he was ready to move up to the Busch North Series, and his father yielded his seat.

"That was a big step for him. I don't know if I could ever do that for someone," Truex Jr. said.

Smart decision by Dad. The younger Truex finished the season 12th overall. He once again won in his eighth start, setting a track record at New Hampshire International Speedway.

In 2001, he ran his first Busch race at Dover and finished 38th.

He ran four more Busch Series races in 2002 with his best finish 17th at Dover while winning two Busch North races.

Truex attracted the attention of Richie Gilmore, head of racing operations for Dale Earnhardt Inc., who introduced him to Earnhardt.

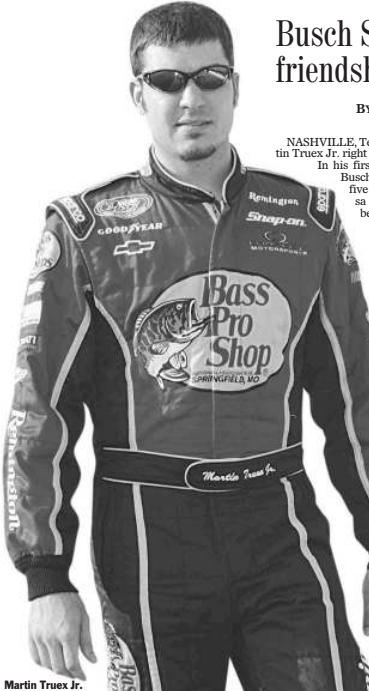
Chance 2 hired Truex for six of his 10 Busch races in 2003, and he turned in three top-10s, including a pair of second-place finishes in the first two races of the year for the team. By December, Chance 2 offered him a two-year deal.

Truex has proven worthy of the job. He won his first race at Bristol in his fifth start this season and added victories at Talladega, Gateway and Nazareth. He has nine top-fives and 11 top-10s in 16 races.

Earnhardt isn't ready to rush Truex because he knows from personal experience how tough it is to jump to NASCAR's top level.

Winning the Busch title is Truex's goal for now. That leaves little time for a personal life or fishing, but Truex said he knows plenty of people could be in his place.

"It's about having a good opportunity with a great team and taking advantage of it," he said. "And that's what I feel like I'm doing."



Martin Truex Jr.

AP photo

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 16: Dodge/Save Mart 350, 5 a.m. Monday, AFN-Atlantic

Last race: Ryan Newman, who led all drivers with eight victories last year, finally picked up his first of 2004 by taking the DHL 400 at Michigan International Speedway. Newman had not finished better than third in any of the previous 14 races this season.

Last year: Robby Gordon earned his

second series victory despite being criticized for racing back to the yellow under caution on his way to the win in the Dodge/Save Mart 350. Runner-up Jeff Gordon said Robby Gordon passed teammate Kevin Harvick under a yellow flag that NASCAR said was perfectly legal.

DRIVERS TO WATCH



Robby Gordon won both road-course races last season, but he's a stranger to a win in a year, and he could use a victory to move up from 20th place in the 2004 points race.



Tony Stewart won the pole in the 2004 season, but he's a stranger to a win in a year, and he could use a victory to move up from 20th place in the 2004 points race.



Casey Mears won the pole in the 2004 season, but he's a stranger to a win in a year, and he could use a victory to move up from 20th place in the 2004 points race.



Qualifying race: Rusty Wallace, 99-309 mph, 2000.
Race record: Eric Rife, 81,412 mph, June 7, 1992.

POINTS RACE

After 15 of 36 races

1. Jimmie Johnson 2,220
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 2,213
3. Matt Kenseth 2,040
4. Bobby Labonte 1,954
5. Tony Stewart 1,945
6. Jeff Gordon 1,933
7. Kurt Busch 1,933
8. Elliott Suddler 1,933
9. Ryan Newman 1,859
10. Kevin Harvick 1,847
11. Kenny Wallace 1,821
12. Jeremy Mayfield 1,772
13. Jamie McMurray 1,728
14. Dale Jarrett 1,694
15. Rusty Wallace 1,674
16. Mark Martin 1,642
17. Casey Mears 1,594
18. Sterling Marlin 1,587
19. Brian Vickers 1,587
20. Robby Gordon 1,584

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Alan Kulwicki 200 at West Allis, Wis. (Live, 9 a.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sun.)

Last race: Kurt Busch picked up his third victory of the season by winning the Meijer 300 at Kentucky Speedway. Busch started at the back of the 43-car field after wrecking his car in practice, moved into the top 10 and took the lead for good with two laps to go.

Last race: Jason Keller won the GNC 150 at Dover under a yellow flag for his first Busch victory of 2003. Keller beat teammate Scott Riggs for about six laps before taking the lead for good on lap 23.

INDY RACING

This week: SunTrust Indy Challenge at Richmond, Va. (Live, 8 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sun.)

Last race: Tony Kanaan recorded his second win of the season and took over the series points lead with a victory in the Bombardeur 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. Kanaan led 146 of the 150 laps and beat teammate Dan Patrick for the finish line by a quarter of a second.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: Black Cat Fireworks 200 at West Allis, Wis. (Live, 9 a.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sun.)

Last race: Bobby Hamilton moved up to second place with two laps to go and won the O'Reilly 200 at Memphis Motorsports Park. It was his second win of the season and sixth with the series.

Last year: Brendan Gaughan overcame a mistake on the next-to-last lap to win the Craftsman Truck Series race at the Milwaukee Mile.

CHAMP CARS

This week: Sebastian Bourdais became the first driver to win two races this season after taking the Grand Prix of Portland. Bourdais led 85 laps of the 100-lap race and finished 1.37 seconds ahead of Bruno Junqueira.

Last race: Bruno Junqueira won the first race of the season at Cleveland, July 3.

FORMULA ONE

Race: Michael Schumacher's victory in the U.S. Grand Prix in Indianapolis was marred by an accident involving his brother, Ralf. Ralf Schumacher crashed into the outside wall on lap 10 and injured his knee. He was released after 10 minutes.

Next race: French Grand Prix, July 4, Magny-Cours.

SPORTS



Devil Rays get back on track
a day after Blue Jays end their
12-game winning streak, Page 28

Report: Sprinter testifies he used banned substances

Montgomery also was told Bonds was given steroids

BY JOSH DUBOW
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Track star Tim Montgomery testified last year that he used performance-enhancing drugs, and also said the man at the center of a Bay Area ring told him he supplied slugger Barry Bonds with steroids, according to a newspaper report.

The San Francisco Chronicle's report in Thursday editions includes direct quotes from Montgomery's testimony to the federal grand jury that investigated the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

The newspaper did not say how it obtained the information. It is illegal to give grand jury testimony to the media.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency plans to seek a lifetime ban against Montgomery for alleged drug violations, according to two sources familiar with the letter who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Montgomery, the world's fastest man at 100 meters, was among dozens of elite athletes — including Bonds, New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi and Montgomery's girlfriend, Olympian Marion Jones — who testified.

Montgomery's lawyer, Cristina Arguedas, lashed out at the leak of her client's secret testimony from Nov. 6.

"No one can legally or legitimately have Tim's grand jury testimony, and if they think they have it, I would like to see it," Arguedas told the Chronicle. "Otherwise, there's no way I can respond to these blind allegations, and I'm not going to comment on it."



Montgomery

Montgomery reportedly testified that in 2001, BALCO founder Victor Conte gave him weekly doses of human growth hormone and a substance

called "the clear." That substance was later determined to be THG, a previously undetectable steroid at the center of the BALCO scandal, which now threatens to keep some of America's top sprinters out of the Athens Olympics.

They include Michelle Collins, Alvin Harrison and Chryste Gaines, who have all been accused by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency of steroid use.

Collins, the 2003 world indoor champion at 200 meters and potential medalist at this summer's Athens Games, also was notified USADA would seek to ban her for life, according to her lawyer, Brian Getz.

Collins is a former Garland Lakeview Centennial sprinter who was a training partner of Jones. She is being investigated for possible doping by USADA but has not been formally notified she is the target of a probe.

Getz on Wednesday called evidence the agency is using to seek a ban against his client "woefully inadequate."

"The USADA is seeking a lifetime ban, and we will resist," Getz told The Dallas Morning News in a telephone interview for Thursday's editions.

SEE SPRINTER ON PAGE 26

V. Williams ousted



Venus Williams wipes her face after her second-round women's singles match against Karolina Sprem of Croatia at Wimbledon on Thursday. The 19-year-old Sprem defeated the two-time champion Williams 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) in the first major surprise of the tournament. See story on Page 29.

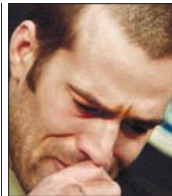
**Mavericks trade
forward Jamison
to Wizards
for No. 5 pick
in NBA Draft**

Page 30



**Racing Stripes:
Busch Series
points leader
Truex Jr.
learning a lot
from association
with Earnhardt Jr.**

Page 31



**Canucks' Bertuzzi
charged with
assault for on-ice
sucker punch**

Page 29

